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Money
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TODAY

Debate plans still debated

SARAH HONG

HE said she would have to call him first, and she said she was waiting for him to phone.

That is where the negotiations between Likud MK Limor Livnat and Interior Minister Haim Ramon over the TV debate slated for Sunday between Prime Minister Shimon Peres and his challenger Binyamin Netanyahu were left last night.

Each said that if the other side does not give in, the debate will be off. Both played hard to get, insisting that it is up to the other side to make the first move to break the impasse.

The sticking point remained just how much interaction there would be between the debaters.

Ramon favored a debate in which the moderator would be the only one to whom either candidate would directly respond. Peres and Netanyahu would not talk to each other nor react directly to each other's comments. They would be strictly limited to answering the moderator's questions, and that only during the time allotted to them.

The Likud wants a less constricting framework which would allow direct interaction between the two. It fears that Labor is trying to create a situation in which Peres will ignore Netanyahu in an effort to belittle him and not address him as an equal.

The favorite for the moderator's role yesterday was Channel 1's Nissim Mihal, but even that was not settled.

The Likud issued a statement accusing Labor of "seeking to (Continued on Page 2)

16-year-old pirate radio operator arrested

RAINE MARCUS and news agencies

POLICE yesterday arrested the 16-year-old who operated the pirate Tel Aviv radio station which closed Ben-Gurion Airport for four hours on Monday, when its transmissions interfered with air traffic control frequencies.

The youth, described by police as a "nice, intelligent boy from a good home," cooperated fully, and said he just wanted experience in a radio station. He has no criminal record.

Police said they would release him on bail after questioning, but are still searching for the station's owners, whose identity is known to police.

Pirate radio stations, meanwhile, resumed broadcasting. A station calling itself Radio Center broadcast on Monday evening, and there were more illegal transmissions in the morning, flight controllers and airport officials said.

Airport spokeswoman Sara Erez said there was little air traffic overnight and the disturbances were not serious enough to close down the airport again.

About a dozen pirate stations have begun broadcasting in the area in recent months.



Ahmed Tibi announces in Taiba yesterday that his Arab Movement for Renewal Party is withdrawing from the elections. (Reuters)

Ahmed Tibi's party withdraws from race

News agencies

DR. Ahmed Tibi announced yesterday that his party, the Arab Movement for Renewal, is withdrawing from the Knesset race. He said he didn't want to be responsible for wasting thousands of Arab votes, after polls predicted it would fail to win a single seat.

Israel Radio said Tibi withdrew under pressure from Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, to whom he is an adviser.

Tibi urged followers, who flocked to Taiba hoping to convince him not to withdraw, to vote for parties that back the Israeli-Arab peace process. He also called on his supporters to vote for Prime Minister Shimon Peres, the second endorsement for Peres from an Arab faction recently.

"In accordance with our responsibility toward the peace process and to stop the right wing, we appeal to our people to support Mr. Peres," Tibi told followers.

Peres said he believed Tibi had made the right decision.



"I think he did a wise thing ... in order not to divide the vote," Peres said.

Parties must capture at least 1.5 percent of the nationwide vote - an estimated 45,000 votes - to qualify for parliamentary seats. Ballots cast for parties that don't meet the threshold are lost.

"It became clear to us that despite the popular support, we had in many areas, there is a danger ... that we would not pass the threshold," Tibi said. "This would mean we are losing tens of thousands of votes and this would practically affect the peace camp."

Before the Arab Movement for Renewal quit the race, 21 parties were competing in the elections. Less than half are expected to win a seat.

Tibi's departure leaves three Arab parties in the race. Surveys

suggest that only one of them, Hadash, would get enough votes for representation in the Knesset.

Attempts to field a single Israeli-Arab party have failed repeatedly, mainly due to ideological splits or personal rivalries. About 541,000 Israeli Arabs are eligible to vote, making up nearly 14 percent of the electorate.

A poll published in *Yediot Aharonot* yesterday said 24.1 percent of Israeli Arabs would vote for Labor and only 3.1 percent for Tibi's party. The survey, conducted among 503 Arab voters, had a 4% margin of error.

Araba has been angry at Peres for slapping a nearly three-month-old closure, and was also critical of Operation Grapes of Wrath.

Arab leaders, who had called on followers to cast ballots for neither prime ministerial candidate, have now begun to throw their weight behind Peres.

Democratic Arab Party MK Abdel Wahab Darawshe has thrown his support behind Peres, saying the prime minister has pledged to achieve full equality between Israel's Arab and Jewish citizens.

Electioneering Shas style: Half rally, half revival

HERB KEINON

"FILL out the forms, turn them into us, and the blessings will, with God's help, come to you soon," the master of ceremonies at a Shas campaign event in Ma'aleh Adumim said last night, warming up the crowd.

He was speaking at an event that was half political rally, half religious revival meeting. Call it electioneering, Shas style.

Night after night, in one city after the next, Shas is taking its show on the road. The party has two tours, one featuring Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, the other featuring kabbalist Rabbi Yitzhak Kaduri. And each rabbi is preceded by a couple of warm up acts, generally including - on one ticket or the other - MKs Aryeh Deri or Shlomo Benizri.

But if the turnout in Ma'aleh Adumim was any indication, the party is in trouble. There seemed something absurd, even sad, about Shas activist Yehuda Deri, Aryeh's brother, telling a crowd that barely filled up half of the city's small amphitheater that Shas is the only party able to turn out tens of thousands of supporters for rallies to hear the "word of the living God."

Deri was saying this to row after row of empty seats.

The stage was piled high with posters of Yosef and Kaduri, more posters than were found in hands in the crowd to be taken home and placed in front-room windows.

Yet Deri, in a booming voice more suited for a crowd of thousands, was undeterred.

"I have no doubt that everyone here will merit the wonderful mitzva of voting Shas," he told the largely inattentive crowd.

He added he expected each one of them to bring in 20 voters. So Shas will, "with God's help have 12 seats in the next Knesset."

About 250 people showed up for the rally, and about 100 of them were under 13. The crowd was heavily female, and stereotypically Shas. There were some women with their hair completely covered, and others with hip-hugging tight slacks. There were men with black kippot, and teenage boys with pony tails.

Still, everyone filled out the forms to be given to Kaduri, forms that included the applicant's address and telephone number, as well as the details of the blessing they asked of him. Some filled out two and three forms.

One woman said she came to the rally not out of support for Shas, but rather to see Kaduri, and receive a blessing from him.

"Politics doesn't interest me," she said. "But what the rabbi says interests me."

Shas is banking heavily on the assumption that what Kaduri says interests a lot of people, and is stressing that one of the things Kaduri is saying, night after night, is "vote Shas."

There was a secular man in Netanyahu who became a Shas activist, Den told the crowd.

"For 10 years his daughter suffered from asthma. Every single night she was tied to an oxygen tank. The other day a Shas activist brought the amulet from Rabbi Kaduri, and the next morning the girl said that she felt better. I asked this man why he decided to become a Shas activist, and he said that if Rabbi Kaduri, who can perform such miracles, said to vote for Shas, who am I not to listen to him?"

So much for the religious revival part of the evening.

As to the political rally part, Deri - and Benizri - knew their audience well. They knew the

US: Iran stepping up pre-poll terror effort

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher yesterday charged Iran with intensifying plans to commit terrorism with the approach of next week's Israeli elections.

He said Iran helps fund Hamas and contributes "up to \$100 million a year" to Hizbullah, and placed responsibility for last week's killing of David Boim, an American-born yeshiva student, near Beit El on an "Iranian-backed group."

Christopher's charge echoed a recent theme of Prime Minister Shimon Peres, who has been saying that Iran is the main force behind terrorism in the Middle East.

In an annual State Department report released last month, the US called Teheran "the premier state sponsor" of international terrorism.

"The evidence has grown in recent months. In advance of the Israeli elections, Iranian-trained terrorists have been sent to infiltrate Israel and the Palestinian territories. Some have been intercepted, others narrowly failed in carrying out their deadly activities, and still others have succeeded in their murderous mis-

sions," Christopher told an annual symposium sponsored by the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

He also stated that PA President Yasser Arafat "today clearly understands" that "100 percent effort" is needed to fight terrorism because "he knows ... that Palestinian aspirations" are liable to be destroyed by anti-Israel terrorism.

Christopher drew a distinction between Iran and Syria, saying that while the latter is on the State Department's lists of countries sponsoring terrorism and drug trafficking, Damascus "has been directly negotiating" peace with Israel.

By contrast, the Hizbullah Katyusha attacks that precipitated Operation Grapes of Wrath last month were meant "to kill the peace process," he said.

"This recent campaign of violence has once again shone the spotlight on a disturbing reality: When it comes to terrorism against the peace process, Iran is playing a leading role. There should no longer be any doubt

about Iran's involvement in terrorism against the peace process."

The US wants to open talks with Teheran on the matters of its support for terrorism and its efforts to acquire nuclear weapons, but Iran "has never taken us up on the offer for this kind of dialogue," Christopher added.

While the US and its European allies concur that Iran is a global purveyor of terrorism, they disagree "on how best to deal with Iran," he said.

In a speech here two weeks ago, German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel sharply attacked the administration's efforts to pressure Europe to isolate Iran commercially and to break off its "critical dialogue" with Teheran.

But yesterday Christopher reiterated the administration's view that "no amount of dialogue will alter Iran's policies, unless the dialogue is accompanied [by] very real and strong economic pressure."

The House Ways and Means Committee will today consider a bill that essentially blacklists foreign companies with substantial investments in Iran's petroleum industry. The Senate passed a similar bill this session.

Fatah report: Covenant frozen, not amended

JON IMMANUEL

THE Palestinian National Covenant has not been amended, only "frozen," according to an internal opinion published by the Research and Thought Department of Fatah in Ramallah late last month.

Separately, a May 16 *Al-Nahar* article by Salim Zaanoun, the chairman of the Palestinian National Council, said that while the covenant has been amended, "there are no specific articles" which have been canceled.

The article was shown to journalists yesterday by Yigal Carmon, a former anti-terror adviser to Likud and Labor prime ministers, who held a press conference with Yehoshua Porat, an academic Palestinian specialist who has come out in support of Binyamin Netanyahu.

The PNC voted on April 24 by a margin of 504 to 54 to "change the covenant by canceling articles contravening the letters exchanged between the PLO and the government of Israel," but the resolution did not appear in a list of PNC resolutions published in the daily *Al-Quds* on April 26.

Both Zaanoun's statement and the internal Fatah publication have aroused further concern that all may not be as simple as it appeared in the letter Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat sent to Prime Minister Shimon Peres in early May. The letter, in English, stated, "The covenant is hereby amended."

The Fatah document, acquired by Peace Watch, takes a negative

view of the decision to amend the covenant, under Israeli pressure during a closure and a war in Lebanon.

"The text of the Palestinian National Covenant remains as it was," the publication states, "and no changes whatsoever were made to it. This has caused it to be frozen, but not annulled. The drafting of the new National Covenant will take into account Israeli fulfillment of its previous and coming obligations, and the extent of the commitment of the new Israeli prime minister who will be elected at the end of May."

The publication states that the decision to freeze the covenant was, in effect, a compromise between those who favored immediate amendment and those who said any action should be delayed until Israel lives up to its commitments.

Carmon showed a filmed segment, apparently made by Palestinian TV, of the closed PNC session before the vote on the covenant. In it, Zaanoun is shown saying: "We must fulfill the commitment demanded at the lowest possible price. Therefore, it was said that if we amend those articles whose amendment is demanded, it will mean that we have paid a very high price, and if we prepare a new proposal, it will be less damaging. Putting forward a new proposal for the national covenant is less damaging than the first proposal ... The

(Continued on Page 2)

'Salame probe leading to arrests'

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

SECURITY forces have carried out sweeping arrests of Islamic militants throughout Judea and Samaria following the interrogation of Hamas fugitive Hassan Salame.

OC Central Command Major Gen. Uzi Dayan said Salame's arrest "allowed us, based on the information derived from his interrogation, to reach a broader infrastructure which was linked to Hassan Salame in various areas."

Salame is being interrogated now and the only thing that I can say is that he is moderately wounded, but his vocal chords were not damaged," Dayan said on the Golan Heights yesterday, as he followed a paratroop brigade exercise.

"We know there are attacks planned. This capture and other actions which we cannot publicize allow us to foil the attacks and broaden our ability to prevent attacks," Dayan said, adding that not all threats could be foiled.

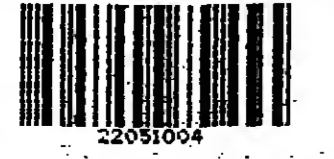
Meanwhile, security forces arrested 19 Palestinians suspected of belonging to or aiding Hamas or Islamic Jihad. The arrests were in the Jenin, Nablus, Tulkarm, Ramallah, and Hebron areas, the army said.

In a related event yesterday, Turkey transferred to Israel four Palestinians Turkish security officials arrested on the suspicion they may be involved in a planned attack on Israel. Security sources said the four were received by Israel Police and handed over to the General Security Service for questioning.

Itim reported the four, apparently residents of Gaza, were suspected after it was discovered they were traveling on false British passports, but a security source said their passports were in order. It is not clear why they were stopped, nor whether they were suspected of engaging in terror activity.

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The Advertising Department



Israel likely to benefit from Iraq-UN deal

STEVE RODAN

ISRAEL'S unofficial trade with Iraq is expected to increase significantly with the UN decision to allow Baghdad to sell oil to buy food and medicine, diplomatic sources said yesterday.

The sources, who have had indirect contacts with Iraq, said that Israeli companies currently are estimated to be selling about \$2 million worth of food and medicine to Baghdad. The supplies are routed through Jordan.

In return, the sources said, Iraq supplies Israel with oil, largely through Jordan's port of Aqaba. The sources said the partial lifting of the UN embargo will allow the unofficial trade between Iraq and Israel to blossom. One estimate is Israel could increase its trade to \$100 million within a year.

On Monday, the UN signed a deal with Iraq that allowed Saddam Hussein's regime to sell \$1 billion worth of oil every 90 days. Iraqi officials said the oil exports could begin within several weeks.

A senior Israeli official said local private firms are conducting trade with virtually every state in the

Arah world, including Iraq and Libya. The trade is through third parties, both European and Arab, and much of it is done without Israeli government intervention.

"They don't ask us for help because they're doing business themselves very nicely," the official said. "As a result, we don't have an exact estimate. What we do know is that Israel's trade with the Arab world is at least hundreds of millions of dollars."

Turkey, a key Israeli ally and trading partner, will also benefit from the UN decision regarding Iraq. Israeli sources said they could tap into the brisk trade that is expected to develop between Ankara and Baghdad when Iraqi oil exports resume.

"The partial lifting of the embargo will enable oil to flow through the pipeline to Turkey and also allow full Turkish exports to Iraq," said Seyfi Tashan, director of the private Foreign Policy Institute in Ankara, who attended a forum at Bar-Ilan University's BESA Center for Strategic Studies.

No agreement yet on cease-fire monitoring panel

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

THE US, Israel, Syria, France and Lebanon concluded a sixth day of talks here yesterday without reaching an agreement on establishing a committee to monitor the Operation Grapes of Wrath cease-fire.

Israeli officials here predicted that finalization of the US's draft of the committee's functions and framework would require further discussion between Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara. The two first spoke by telephone Sunday evening.

Two major areas remain unresolved, the officials said: how many votes are needed among the five parties to determine how

to proceed on complaints of violations of the cease-fire, and how the parties will approach zones of conflict.

The Americans and French are close to bridging their differences over a dispute on primary responsibility for the monitoring committee, the officials said.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher yesterday told a forum of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy that the monitoring committee seeks to "limit the chances" of a repeat of civilian casualties.

He said the committee will represent the first time Israel, Lebanon and Syria join "to help prevent another crisis."

'J'lem to announce Shuafat expropriation'

BILL HUTMAN

AN Israeli lawyer involved in the expropriation of land in Jerusalem's Shuafat neighborhood has confirmed that the municipality initiated the process that will soon lead to an official announcement of the plan.

Oded Blaustein told *The Jerusalem Post* that his law office is conducting a review of land ownership in the area slated for expropriation. He said the work was being conducted for the Jerusalem Municipality.

The municipality officially continues to deny the expropriation plans, which Palestinian sources say includes some 300-400 dunams, for the construction of a road linking the Pisgat Ze'ev and Ramat Hashofet neighborhoods.

"As we said last week, at issue are only some telephone inquiries, and nothing more than that," the spokesman said. Blaustein said Giora Eden, the

municipal official in charge of expropriations, hired his office to carry out inquiries into land ownership. He said this was the initial stage before a formal announcement would be made about the expropriation, and the entire process could take up to a year.

Shuafat residents have appealed to Faisal Hussein, the senior Palestinian Authority official in Jerusalem, to help coordinate a defense of their lands.

"We will use every legal means possible to stop the expropriation," Sayid Amouri, the neighborhood mukhtar, said.

Amouri said he was asked to go to Blaustein's office last week and that he was shown a map and lists of land-owners who are to be expropriated orders. *The Jerusalem Post* obtained one list, which included the names of 20 Arab land-owners whose property is slated for expropriation.

Pollard's wife presses Israel

The wife of convicted spy Jonathan Pollard, here on a visit, said yesterday Israeli leaders must renew their appeals to President Bill Clinton to pardon her husband.

"This is not an issue of elections, it is first an issue of justice," Esther Pollard said. AP

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. R.E. David Berger, the Canadian Ambassador, will address the club.

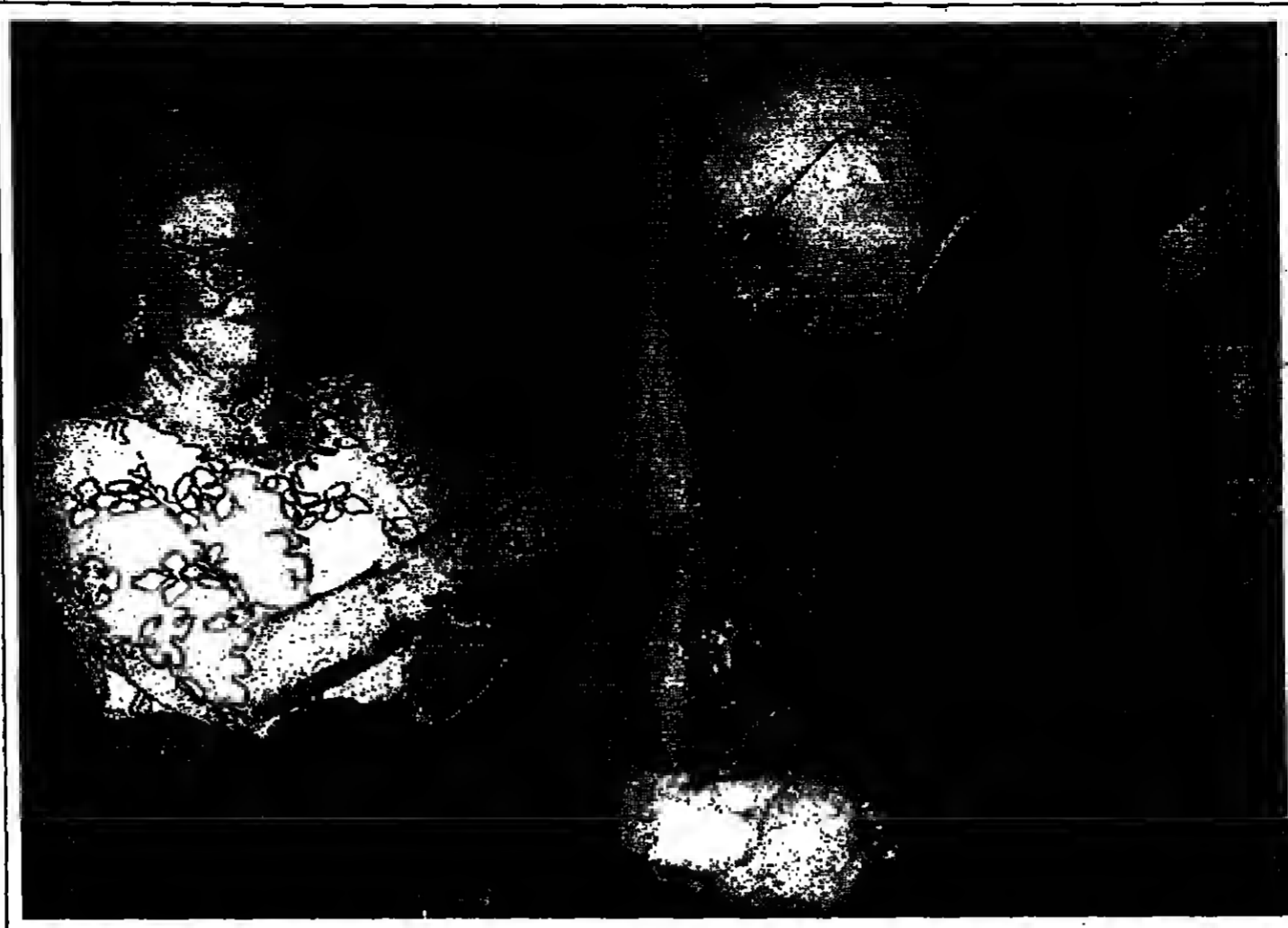
COVENANT

(Continued from Page 1)

version which was drafted is the least damaging that we could submit. It gives us an extension of six months until the central committee convenes."

Carmon said the implication is that "no specific articles have to be canceled and that the six months until a new charter emerges can be used in demand concessions from Israel during final talks."

The film also showed Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kaoufani telling reporters immediately af-



Jordan's King Hussein receives the Sir Winston Churchill Award on behalf of the British Technion Society from Lady Soames during a ceremony held at London's Guildhall on Monday. Hussein met yesterday in the British capital with Foreign Minister Ehud Barak in an attempt to ease strained ties between the two countries. (Reuters)

Amos-1 satellite boosted to reach optimum altitude

STEVE RODAN

ISRAEL'S Amos-1 communications satellite was boosted to its virtual optimum altitude yesterday as engineers asserted the pioneer launch was proceeding smoothly.

The satellite's huge Apogee Boost Motor lifted it to an altitude of about 36,000 kilometers in a 50 second boost at 4:54 p.m. local time.

"So far so good," said Amos project director Amitsur Rosenfeld, who represents Israel Aircraft Industries, the designer and producer of the satellite. "We have not had to take any emergency steps."

Amos-1 was launched early Thursday on the Ariane rocket from Kourou in French Guiana. The rocket took the satellite to an altitude of 200 kilometers where

it was released and has been rising to its level of orbit ever since.

Project directors said the satellite will be placed in its exact orbit on Sunday, when the fourth and final boost will be conducted. This will last for about 12 seconds and place the satellite in a position that IAI hopes will be maintained for at least the next decade.

"The biggest surprise so far is that there have not been any surprises," David Menaker, head of Amos's command and control, said. "We had prepared for many scenarios."

IAI executives said the Amos-1 will begin service on July 1. The Israeli government has guaranteed that it will lease three of the satellite's seven transponders, but executives said they do not believe that will be necessary.

The executives said Amos's marketing company, SpaceCom, is negotiating with several local and international firms, including in Europe and in the Arab world.

"We're confident that once Amos is operating it will market itself," project director Rosenfeld said.

Savir: Peace process not removing barriers

STEVE RODAN

ISRAEL'S biggest failure in the Middle East peace process is that the efforts at reconciliation have not been accepted by either Arabs or Israelis at the grass roots level, Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir said yesterday.

Briefing a delegation of visiting journalists and writers from Arab countries, Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir said: "If there is one issue where we have failed in this process, it is our effect on public opinion on both sides."

Savir said he sees a "major gap in the official dialogue" between Arab and Israeli representatives, and the lack of contact between the two peoples.

"Somehow, we thought if we solved the problems, the people would come along," Savir said. "They do not come along in Israel, the Palestinian Authority, or in the Maghreb when it comes to knowing each other better or breaking taboos."

Savir said another Israeli misconception was that peace would instantly bring massive foreign investment.

"We thought that once we behaved, the whole international community would stand in line to invest," he said. "It hasn't worked that way. There are many attrac-

tive places in which to invest." Savir urged his Arab guests to use their skills to break down barriers with Israelis. He rejected the assertion often used by Arab officials that more time is needed until such an attempt is made.

"It's not too early," Savir said. "One day, we might say it's too late."

The Arab writers arrived in Israel on Sunday in a visit sponsored by Haifa's Bet Hagefen. The delegation includes journalists from the territories, Jordan, Morocco, Algeria, and a Yemenite writer based in London.

Savir was peppered with questions from the Arab journalists who expressed disappointment with the Middle East peace process and complained that the average Arab is not benefiting from tranquil relations with Israel. The Foreign Ministry director responded that the first step of the process was political agreements, followed by economic cooperation.

Savir warned that the Arabs should not view terrorism as solely an Israeli problem.

"If there is terror activity again and again, we can say good-bye to the peace process," he said. "Nobody will trust us [the peacemakers]."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Documents: Wallenberg bank aided Nazis

While Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg was trying to save the Jews of Budapest from the Nazis, his family's bank in Sweden was collaborating with the Germans, according to previously secret US documents released yesterday.

According to the documents, the Wallenberg family Enskilda bank was making loans to German industry without receiving collateral, acting to conceal German interests in US industries and was willing to sell the Germans a Swedish plant in Hamburg for gold.

The documents were discovered in the US National Archives by the World Jewish Congress, which released them. Reuters

Israeli officials in Oman to finalize mission

The head of a four-man Israeli team in Oman to set up Israel's first trade mission in the Gulf, said yesterday he would be meeting with Omani officials to finalize the opening.

Oded Ben-Haim did not say when he expected the mission to be inaugurated, but said that the fledgling economic ties between Israel and Oman were "on the right track."

Meanwhile, a newspaper in the Gulf reported that Israel would negotiate for air links with Oman once the trade office is opened. *The Peninsula*, an English-language daily in Qatar, quoted El Al officials as saying Oman would likely be the first Gulf country to open air links with Israel. AP

Syrian army deserter's remand extended

The remand of Adel Agn'oung, 20, a deserter from the Syrian army who was arrested on May 12, was extended for 15 days by Acre Magistrate's Court yesterday. He is suspected of infiltrating into Israel, and the government is seeking his deportation. Agn'oung told the court he deserted because "I didn't like living in Syria." Iim

Shahak shuffles commands

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak promoted Col. Yair Naveh to chief paratrooper and infantry officer, replacing Brig.-Gen. Giora Islander. Islander will soon be promoted to head the IDF Operations Branch. Naveh, 39, is a former Golan Brigade commander, and Islander, 44, commanded the Givati Brigade. Their promotions follow a recent shuffle in the General Staff in which Shahak brought in young officers, much to the discontent of some senior generals, who feel they are being forced out. Arizeh O'Sullivan

Interior Ministry workers step up sanctions

Interior Ministry workers are stepping up their sanctions today to the point where they will almost be on strike. The only service they will perform will be one connected with the elections - the issuance of new IDs to eligible voters. However, a special panel will deal with emergency requests for passports. Iim

Palestinian journalists to boycott PA meeting

JON IMMANUEL

PALESTINIAN journalists plan to boycott the opening session of today's legislative council meeting in Gaza to protest the police beating of a photographer.

At the session, Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat is expected to announce the portfolios of his new cabinet.

The journalists union is upset that police beat Fayed Nurredin last week, because he took a picture of a donkey swimming, and claimed that it showed disrespect for Palestinians. They slapped him around and humiliated him, a Gaza journalist said. The photograph attracted attention only after it was published in the daily *Al-Ayyam*.

The beating helped prompt the union to write letters to each of the 88 council members outlining its grievances, claiming journalists are subjected to police and bureaucratic intimidation.

The charges come as Gaza's senior human rights activist, Dr. Iyad Sarraj, was ordered held for an additional 48 hours. The director of the Independent Palestinian Commission for Citizens' Rights was arrested on Saturday, after he gave a scathing interview to *The New York Times* alleging the PA humiliates its citizens.

Amnesty International has called for urgent action to free him as "a prisoner of conscience."

Bassam Eid of B'tselem wrote to Arafat, saying: "It is additional proof of the policy of oppression by the national authority toward its citizens."

The journalists union has also called for a ban on Israeli journalists because Palestinian journalists are being kept out of Israel for the elections, for alleged security reasons.

This call is supported by the PA Information Ministry. "If Israelis are going to stop Palestinian journalists from traveling, we should do the same with Israeli journalists," a senior ministry official said.

"It is absurd that Arab reporters from Qatar and Jordan can enjoy reporting in Israel, while we in Ramallah and Nablus can not do any coverage," added Daoud Kuttab, director of the Palestinian Audio-Visual Union, which represents about 60 TV and radio reporters.

Popular Palestinian radio personality Daniela Khalaf, host of the free-wheeling current affairs program *Good Morning, Palestine*, was suspended because she did not challenge a caller who complained about police brutality, her boss said yesterday.

Winning numbers

In last night's Payis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 366099 won NIS 1,000,000.

The holder of ticket number 051322 won a car.

Tickets numbered 190217, 398845, 061740, 166999, 606336, 075251, 173896 and 425283 won NIS 5,000. Those tickets ending in 11893, 93598, 23281, 76044, 37395, 71789, 80646, 81669, 11608, 52668, 35366, 37271,

77627, 64828, 05464 44489, 10047, 47859 and 30209 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 825, 395, 178, and 860 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 80, 55, 97, 40 won NIS 30. Tickets ending in 36 and 97 won NIS 20.

Tickets ending in 0 and 9 won NIS 10.

In last night's weekly Loto drawing, the winning numbers were 12, 13, 24, 32, 40, 44 and the additional number was 10.

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مكتبة العدل

Habad campaigns for Netanyahu

HERB KEINON

WHILE the rest of the haredi world - at least officially - sits on the fence waiting for instructions from leading rabbis on whom to vote for as prime minister, hundreds of Habad hassidim in the next couple of days will be taking to the streets to actively campaign for Benjamin Netanyahu.

Habad spokesman Meoahem Brodt said the decision to actively campaign for Netanyahu followed endorsements of Shimon Peres from the Arab sector. He said that Habad's organizational apparatus will not be put at Likud's disposal, "but we know how to campaign."

The decision follows a call from leading Habad rabbis to vote for Netanyahu. They based themselves on a 1990 statement by the late Lobavitcher rebbe, Menachem Meoel Schneerson, to the effect that "a left-wing government is a danger for the Jews living in Israel."

Meanwhile, United Torah Judaism MK Avraham Ravitz denied reports that Degel Hatorah's leading rabbi, Shalom Yosef Elyashiv and Aharon Leib Steinman, have decided to publicly en-

dorse Netanyahu, and are negotiating with Agudat Yisrael's rabbis to coordinate the announcement.

Ravitz said that as of now, no public endorsement of either candidate is planned, although the rabbis will be let it known by word of mouth who they think their followers should vote for.

One Agudat Yisrael source said that a public, signed declaration of support is not in the offing. What is more likely is followers of various rabbis will drive around haredi neighborhoods on the day before the election and, using a bullhorn, say that the rabbis have directed people to vote for Netanyahu. This is the method the rabbis employed to bring out the haredi vote on behalf of Ehud Olmert in the last Jerusalem municipal elections.

"A precedent was set then of endorsing a non-religious candidate," the Aguda official said. "But the precedent was also set of endorsing by word of mouth, and not through a signed declaration that would give such an endorsement almost the status of a holy obligation."

'Efficiency can add 2% to votes for Peres'

MICHAL YUDELMAN

SOME 50,000 Labor activists will take part in the Election Day effort, 20,000 of them in polling stations and transporting voters.

Labor's campaign heads are putting the emphasis on organizing Election Day activities, budgeted at NIS 5 million. Good organization, they say, can add two percent to the vote for Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

The campaign staff has already exceeded its NIS 45m, spending NIS 60 m. The additional money was retroactively approved by the party secretariat, and Labor sources noted that this year's expenses are still lower than those in 1992.

Meir Nitzan, Labor's Election Day chairman, said at a press conference that Labor will have representatives at every one of the 6,714 polling stations

throughout the country. These include 129 polling stations in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, 598 in the Arab community, 83 in Druse areas, and 40 in prisons.

He said the party will concentrate on bringing hundreds of thousands of Labor voters to the polls, and on tracing new immigrants who have changed their addresses, but must vote at their previous locations.

Labor will be operating 4,000 vehicles on Election Day, including 240 cars and seven ambulances for transporting elderly and disabled voters.

"Our massive presence on the streets and at the polling stations will prevent the occurrences, witnessed in previous election campaigns, of hindering or preventing certain voters from coming to the polls. In addition, we will make sure of the identity of every voter, and there will be no group votes of one person bringing in a sack full of identity cards," Nitzan said.

Judge: Shooting was not political

THE recent shooting of a Labor activist in Herzliya by one from Likud "was apparently a quarrel on the level of a street fight, with both sides fighting over carrying out what they were assigned to do, with no particular connection to the parties for whom they were working," Tel Aviv District Court Judge Oded Modrick ruled yesterday.

Modrick made his comments during a hearing in which he accepted the appeal of Yair Kotzer, suspected of being involved in the incident. Kotzer was ordered released tomorrow rather than on Sunday, as previously set. However, he is to remain under house arrest for 15 days and had to post a NIS 12,000 bond.

Kotzer was accused of being part of a group of Likud activists involved in the incident in which Arthur Yurovsky was shot last week while putting up election posters for Labor.

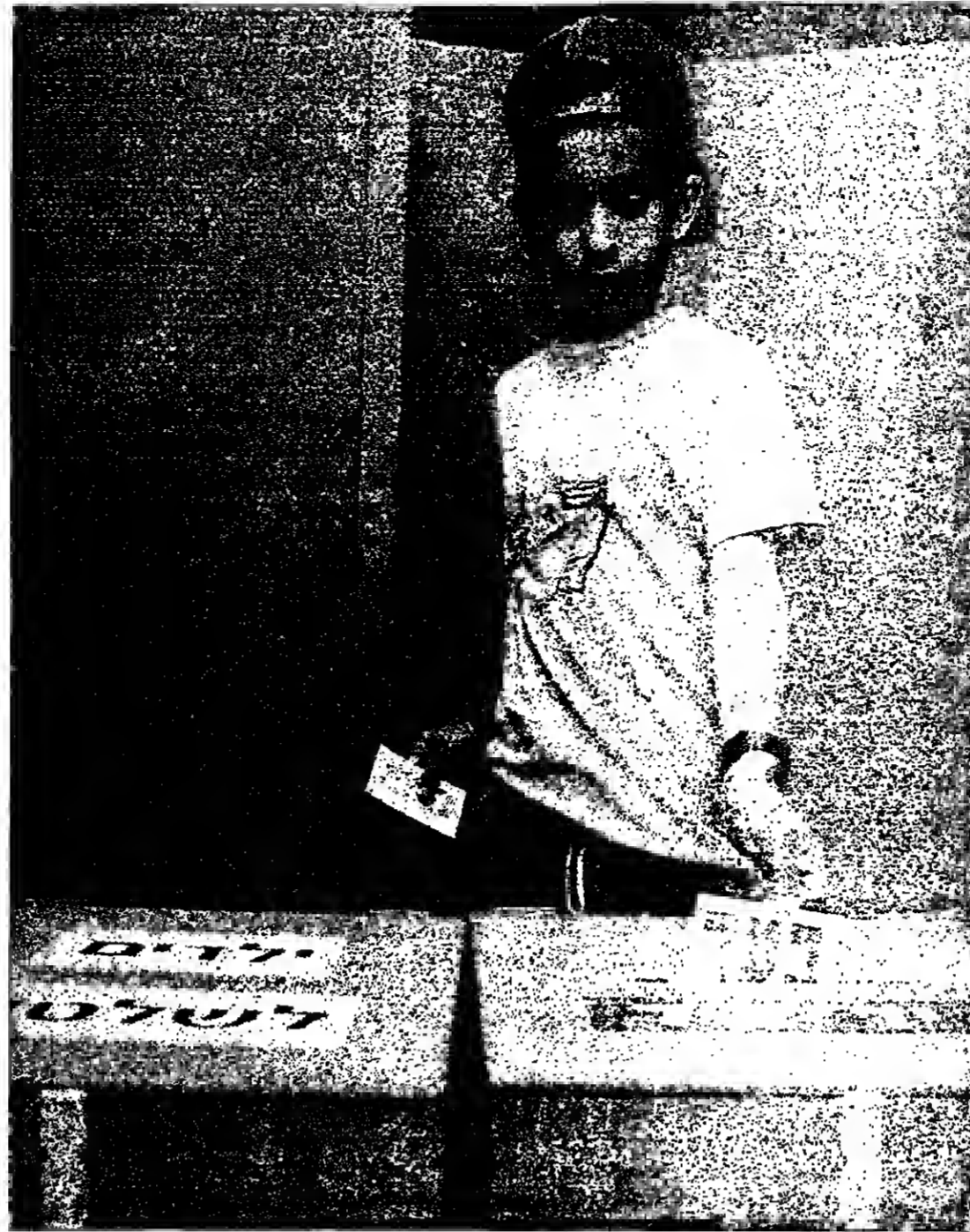
Meanwhile, Bran Shmuel, 21, of Herzliya - remanded yesterday in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court for stabbing three youths on Saturday afternoon at a local beach over where to sit - also confessed to throwing stun and gas grenades at the home of Amir Kedoshim, the chief suspect in the shooting of Yurovsky. (Iim)

Beilin: Give up more of West Bank

COMPROMISING on the West Bank will allow Israel to retain a united Jerusalem as its capital and better protect its territory, Minister Yossi Beilin said yesterday at a press conference in Haifa.

"In the final status talks with the Palestinians, we will completely give up control of parts of the West Bank ... and out just the six percent Israel was required to give up in the interim talks," he said.

This move would also allow Israel to hold onto Jerusalem and better protect the parts of the West Bank it does hold onto, he continued. (Iim)



A youngster votes at the Kiryat Hayovel community center in Jerusalem, as part of a mock election being conducted by the Israel Association of Community Centers and cable television's Children's Channel. The polls are being set up at a different community center each day, with the youngsters choosing between two parties vying for control of the "Children's Parliament," as part of the community centers' campaign to promote tolerance, prevent violence, and teach them about the electoral process. (Sarit Uziely)

Sharansky declines to endorse a candidate for prime minister

BATSHEVA TSUR

YISRAEL Ba'aliya head Natan Sharansky said yesterday that he is not going to endorse a candidate for premier.

"I am not a rebbe, and I do not intend telling people for whom to vote," Sharansky said, noting that supporters of both contenders have joined Yisrael Ba'aliya.

Sharansky said that some 450,000 of the immigrants who arrived in the past five years have the right to vote. He noted that about 30 percent have moved from their original addresses and currently live far from their poll-

ing booths, making voting more difficult for them.

Pollsters have predicted that his party would receive six mandates "or maybe even more," Sharansky said. However, their surveys did not include some 200,000 veteran immigrants who, he said, will vote for Yisrael Ba'aliya.

Yisrael Ba'aliya will be the only party to get into the Knesset without any financial aid, Shar-

ansky predicted. He said the difficult financial situation is due to the law which links party funding to the number of MKs from that party in the current Knesset.

Meanwhile, Yisrael Ba'aliya unveiled its economic policy at a panel discussion. Participating in the panel were David Bloomberg, former managing director of Bank Mizrahi; Rolando Eisen, a leading businessman; Ariel Weiss, of the Rothschild Foundation; and Pinhas Landau, a columnist in *The Jerusalem Post's Money Magazine*.

Netanyahu warns of a very tight vote

SARAH HONIG

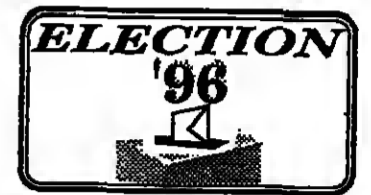
LIKUD leader Benjamin Netanyahu predicted yesterday that the difference between him and Prime Minister Shimon Peres will be very narrow - perhaps no more than a few hundred or thousand individual votes.

Netanyahu spoke yesterday during a meeting at the Likud campaign headquarters in which the managers of the various campaign sectors spoke in upbeat tones about Netanyahu's chances, despite the fact that polls continue to predict a small lead for Peres.

"Every single individual vote will count in this campaign and the election day organization will be of paramount significance," Netanyahu said. "We can't afford to lose a single vote because the result will be very close and can go either way. The difference between winning and losing might in the end prove to have been no more than a few hundred individual votes, or a few thousand at the very most."

He exhorted his party's Election Day volunteers to make sure that there is a high turnout in sectors considered pro-Likud and that the Likud is represented on all polling station committees.

Meanwhile, Netanyahu's partner Rafael Eitan of Tsomet used an appearance at the immigrants campaign headquarters, which he heads, as an opportunity to launch a scathing attack on Foreign Minister Ehud Barak. Eitan, a former chief of general staff,



lamented the fact that it was a Likud government which had appointed Barak as chief of staff.

"I had recommended against doing so. I warned them," Eitan said. "But they went ahead and appointed Barak despite my warnings. I have no doubt that those who did not listen to me then, rue their decision now."

Eitan noted the fact that Barak "is said to have a high IQ but I know people with high IQs who are really very stupid. Whatever one's score is does not guarantee common sense and practical intelligence."

No party grand finales as rallies scrapped

SARAH HONIG

THERE will be no grand rallies to mark the campaign finale on the eve of election day, after Labor and the Likud last night signed an agreement to cancel the only giant outdoor events planned for this entire election season.

The official explanation that both parties are out of money. The rallies would have cost each of them at least NIS 1 million more in the end.


Labor had planned to end its campaign with a rally in Tel Aviv's Rabin Square and the Likud with a similar event at Jerusalem's Sultan's Pool.

Apart from the costliness of these major productions, Labor argued that such huge concentrations of people are not desirable from a security point of view these days, and that the rallies are as far as staging them is concerned. They would mean bringing participants and activists in from around the country who then might not be home early the next

morning when they might be needed for election day chores.

There was disagreement in the Likud about whether to call off the rally. MK Yehoshua Matza, who was put in charge of the campaign funding, announced that he was scrapping the project because the party could not foot the bill for it. But campaign chairman Yitzhak Mordechai maintained that the rally is necessary as a last minute boost for prime ministerial candidate Binyamin Netanyahu and as a morale builder for the party's supporters. The matter was finally submitted to Netanyahu's ruling and he decided against holding the rally.

However, until the Likud made up its mind, the signing of the agreement was delayed repeatedly throughout the day until the final okay from Netanyahu yesterday evening. The suggestion for canceling the rallies was first made by Labor, but only on condition that the Likud go along.



STATE OF ISRAEL
Central Committee for the Election of the 14th Knesset and the Prime Minister

Notice regarding TRANSPORTATION FOR VOTERS

In accordance with the Political Parties Financing Law, voters who, on election day, are more than 20 km. from the polling station at which they are to vote are entitled to transportation.

Travel tickets will be provided personally to registered voters who show their identity card (and preferably their voter's card). Without an identity card, no ticket will be provided.

Transportation will be on Egged Inter-urban buses and trains.

Tickets for those entitled to them will be available at the following locations:

- a. Those traveling by Egged will receive a return ticket:
 1. At special ticket windows, at Egged bus stations.
 2. At places where there is no Egged bus station, tickets will be distributed at points, the location of which is given on notices in the settlement concerned.
- b. Tickets for those traveling by train will be available throughout Israel at station booking offices. If there is no booking office at the station, a ticket will be provided by the ticket inspector on the train.

For travel on regular Egged lines, tickets will be given out to those entitled to them, the day before election day, at Egged ticket windows throughout the country, between 1:00 and 8:00 p.m., and also on election day, from the time voting booths open, until 9:00 p.m.

Tickets for travel by train will be given out to those entitled to them on election day, ONLY at station booking offices, from the time the train service starts, and until the service closes.

For travel on the Eilat bus route and from southern Arava settlements south of Mitzpeh Ramon, those wishing to travel must register beforehand. Transportation for these voters will be in accordance with a special timetable, which is available at Egged ticket windows. Tickets for travel to and from Eilat will be given out at Egged ticket windows, at the Jerusalem, Haifa, Tel Aviv, Beersheba and Eilat bus stations.

Tickets will also be given out at settlements in the Arava, at times to be announced on notice boards in the settlements.

A voter traveling to or from Eilat is entitled to receive a ticket, the validity of which is from the day before election day, to the day after election day.

The points at which tickets will be distributed to voters are listed below:


EGGED: Northern Region: Kiryat Shmona, Safed, Tiberias, Nazareth, Afula, Tivon, Nahariya, Acre, Karmiel, Kiryat Haim, Haifa, Haifa-Carmel, Haifa-Beit Hakranot.

Central Region: Zichron Ya'acov, Pardes Hanna, Hadera, Netanya, Kfar Saba, Ra'anana, Herzliya, Hod Hasharon, Nes Ziona, Gedera, Petah Tikva, Tel Aviv Central Bus Stn., Arikosroff Tel Aviv Depot, Lod Ramla, Rishon Lezion, Rehovot, Ashdod.

Jerusalem Region: Jerusalem, Beit Shemesh.

Southern Region: Ashkelon, Kiryat Gat, Malachi Junction, Beersheba, Dimona, Arad, Eilat.

ISRAEL RAILWAYS: Rehovot, Hashalom Tel Aviv, Hadera, Binyamina, Haifa Central, Kiryat Motzkin, Acre, Nahariya, Bat Galim, Netanya, Beit Yehoshua, Tel Aviv - Savidor.



State of Israel
Central Elections Committee for the 14th Knesset and the Prime Minister

Freedom, Secrecy and Honesty of the Elections

Pursuant to Paragraph 16 of the Elections Law (Electioneering Methods) 1959, I hereby draw the attention of voters to their right to vote, freely and according to their own conscience, for one of the lists of candidates authorized to contest the elections for the 14th Knesset, and for one of the candidates for prime minister.

Voting in the elections is secret, which the Central Elections Committee has taken all possible steps to ensure. These steps include the following:

1. The envelopes in which voting slips are placed (both for the Knesset elections and election of the prime minister) are completely opaque. Voters may seal the envelope if they wish.
2. All polling stations have screens to ensure total privacy.
3. Voters, and only voters, may place the voting slip in the envelope and the envelope into the ballot box, where it gets mixed up with the other envelopes of voters from the same area. Only people who cannot vote unaided because of illness or disability may be assisted by someone else.

The law prescribes severe punishments for committing dishonest acts in connection to the elections, for disturbing the elections, and for voting in a manner contrary to the law. Punishable offenses include giving or offering a bribe to influence voting; accepting or agreeing to accept a bribe in connection with voting; promising or denying a voter work or threatening to dismiss a voter from his/her job, in order to pressure him to vote for a particular list of candidates; pressuring someone to vote (or not to vote) for a particular list or not to vote at all, by means of oaths, curses, excommunication, boycott, vows, the release from vows, or the promise of a blessing; disturbing the orderly process of voting; disturbing someone while he/she is voting or preventing someone from voting; using someone else's identity card for identification purposes at a polling station; and voting more than once.

I am convinced that the provisions of the law, and the means taken by the Central Elections Committee to enforce them, will enable all voters to vote only according to their own judgment and conscience.

I therefore call upon all voters to exercise their right and to vote as free citizens.

Theodore Orr
Supreme Court Judge
Chairman of the Central Elections Committee
for the 14th Knesset and the Prime Minister

UK threatens to disrupt EU business

LONDON (AP) - Prime Minister John Major said yesterday unless there is agreement by June 21 on arrangements to lift a world-wide ban on British beef, Britain will disrupt European Union business with a policy of non-cooperation.

"This is not how I wish to do business in Europe. But I see no alternative," Major told the House of Commons to cheers from many of the rank-and-file of his Conservative Party.

"We cannot continue business as usual within Europe when we are faced with this clear disregard by some of our partners of reason, common sense and Britain's national interests."

Major's move was the most drastic yet in Britain's two-month confrontation with its EU partners over the beef ban because of fears of mad cow disease.

The crisis has worsened Britain's often-strained relations with its EU partner and exacerbated anti-European sentiment among Conservative rank-and-file legislators.

Major demanded a deal before a June 21-22 summit in Florence, Italy, when EU leaders are supposed to set in train key negotiations on closer integration of the 15-nation union.

He needed, Major said, before the summit the exemption of gelatin, fat and bull semen from the ban and a "clear framework in place" for lifting the whole ban.

"If they are not, the Florence meeting is bound to be dominated by this issue. It could not proceed without our normal cooperation."

Road rage kills driver

LONDON (Reuters) - British motorways, packed with exasperated drivers angered by traffic gridlock, have been hit by an epidemic of road rage that has turned to murder.

A nation once famed for its mild-mannered and polite people was shocked by the weekend killing of a young electrician stabbed through the heart by another driver in a roadside row.

Police sifting through video evidence to track down the killer heaped motorists to stay calm with the inspector leading the hunt telling them: "I would urge drivers to avoid confrontations."

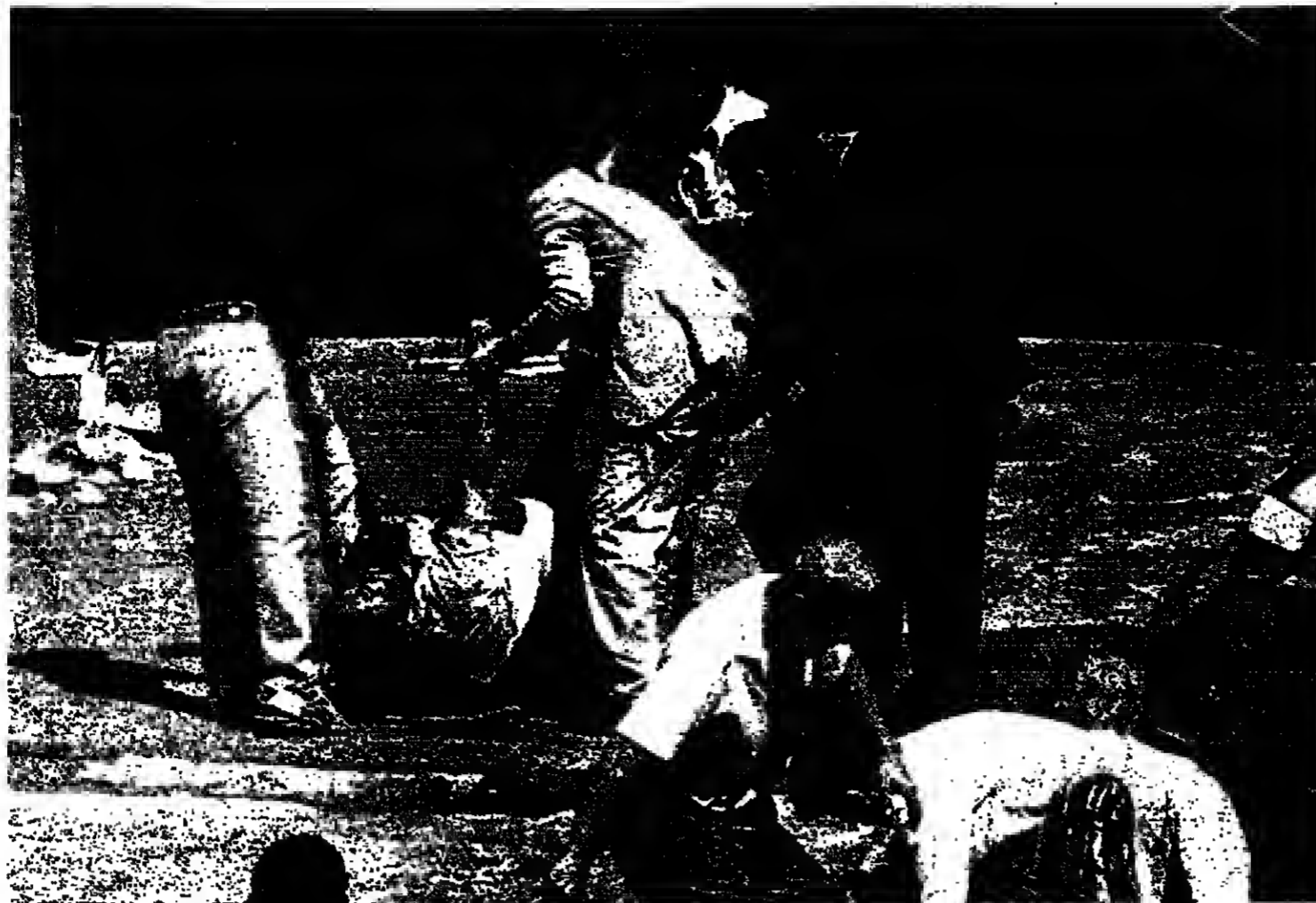
But a judge warned Britain is being hit by an epidemic of road rage attacks and a survey by a leading drivers' organization has revealed that up to 90 percent of motorists have encountered it.

The Automobile Association has even issued a 10-point courtesy code to help motorists grapple with their frustration.

They were told to keep calm and show restraint. "Do not drive in a spirit of competition or retaliation," it said.

Officials blamed increasing congestion on Britain's roads.

"Rats and various primates can respond aggressively in response to overcrowding. It is reasonable to suggest that humans respond in a comparable manner," said AA spokesman Matthew Joint in a report based on its survey.



Detectives carry the body of Miloslav Bizic, a private detective and former senior Belgrade police officer who was gunned down by an unknown assailant wielding an automatic weapon outside a Belgrade shopping mall yesterday. (Reuters)

Izetbegovic: Bosnia's elections may be doomed to failure

BOSNIA'S top Moslem politician warned yesterday that fall elections are doomed to fail unless Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, an indicted war criminal, is ousted.

Alija Izetbegovic, president of the Moslem-dominated government forming a federation with Bosnian Croats, spoke after meeting with the head of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The head of the Organization, charged with staging the elections, agreed.

"There is no doubt, the presence of indicted war criminals represents a great ... obstacle for free and fair elections," said Flavio Cotti, the Swiss foreign minister. Cotti is assessing whether voting should be delayed.

Karadzic over the weekend reportedly told top Western officials administering the Bosnian peace accords that he would step down. But instead, he gave hard-line aide Bijana Plavsic responsi-

bility of dealing with the international community, an apparent effort to maintain power behind the scenes.

Karl Bildt, the top civilian official in the Bosnian peace process, met with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic on "steps ... for successful implementation" of the Bosnian peace accords, the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug reported. The phrasing was believed to be a euphemism for ways to sideline Karadzic.

Pressure on Karadzic increased after he fired a subordinate, Rajko Kasagic, a relative moderate favoring good relations with NATO and other organizations implementing the peace accords.

Kasagic was initially defiant, but yesterday issued a statement downplaying his differences with Karadzic and saying the two were united in their determination to maintain a separate Bosnian Serb entity. It was unclear whether he

News agencies SAHAJEVO

felt intimidated or was genuinely backing Karadzic.

The peace accords, which ended 3½ years of war, call for elections, probably in September. But Izetbegovic said lack of freedom of movement, restrictions on the media and Karadzic's hold on power present obstacles to fair voting.

The peace accords ban anyone indicted by the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague, such as Karadzic, from running for office. However, Karadzic has not ruled out participation, and even if he opts not to run, he likely would try to play a behind-the-scenes role.

At The Hague an expert witness told the UN criminal tribunal for former Yugoslavia yesterday that thousands of non-Serbs may have been killed at the notorious Omarska prison camp in northwest Bosnia during the summer of 1992.

Testifying on the ninth day of the war crimes trial of Bosnian Serb Dusan "Dusko" Tadic, Norwegian judge Hanne Sophie Greve told how the camp had the capacity to hold up to 3,300 people at a time between May and August 1992.

Tadic, a former cafe owner and reserve police officer, is accused of visiting prison camps - including Omarska - in the Prijedor region of north western Bosnia, killing, torturing and raping at will. He has denied any involvement.

Asked by the prosecution how many killings occurred at the Omarska camp Greve answered: "I would rather suggest thousands... But I'm not in a position to establish numbers."

"According to Serb officials there were no large scale releases. Considering the number of people who were taken in, it (killing) must have been on a large scale," said Greve.

Italian authorities hail capture of Mafia boss

PALERMO (AP) - When police burst into the seaside refuge of most-wanted Mafia boss Giovanni Brusca, they found the television tuned to a new movie on the killing of anti-Mafia prosecutor Giovanni Falcone.

Authorities called it a coincidence because Brusca is charged with setting off the roadside explosion that killed Falcone May 23, 1992.

"Let's say it's extraordinary that it happened on the eve of the fourth anniversary," said prosecutor Giancarlo Caselli. "It makes the operation more significant."

Brusca and his brother Vincenzo were picked up at a house in Cannatello, a small beach town

near Agrigento on Sicily's southwest coast.

One police official said an "army" of police were involved in the operation, with news media saying as many as 400 officers were involved.

Policemen cheered openly as Brusca was driven into police headquarters in Palermo, and government officials congratulated investigators.

Brusca was taken from police headquarters in Palermo for transfer to a maximum security prison. His guards had to keep angry police away, but one managed to bloody Brusca's nose, the ANSA news agency said.

Falcone's sister, Maria, said: "Finally the state is giving the

strong response that Giovanni wanted."

Authorities allege the 36-year-old Brusca set off the roadside explosion outside of Palermo that killed Falcone, the nation's No. 1 anti-Mafia prosecutor. The murder sent shockwaves through Italy and led to a broad crackdown on the mob.

Brusca is a defendant in the ongoing trial on the Falcone murder in Caltanissetta in central Sicily. But it was not immediately clear whether he would begin appearing in that case or in other courts where he is a defendant in Mafia trials.

He also is accused of heading the teams that planted car bombs in mid-1993 which damaged the

Uffizi museum in Florence, two churches in Rome and a public art gallery in Milan.

Prosecutors say those bombings came in retaliation for the arrest of Salvatore Riina, the Mafia's "boss of bosses," and for Pope John Paul II's harsh condemnation of Cosa Nostra that year.

Brusca also is a suspect in the strangling of the 11-year-old son of a Mafia boss who turned state's evidence. The boy's body reportedly was then thrown into a vat of acid.

Prosecutors are seeking his indictment for involvement in the planting of a car bomb near Rome's Olympic stadium just after a soccer game in 1993.

Bomb blast kills 16, wrecks Delhi market

NEW DELHI (Reuters) - A car bomb devastated a busy market area in New Delhi yesterday, killing at least 16 people and setting three large buildings ablaze, police said.

A Kashmiri militant group claimed responsibility, but police said it was too early to speculate on who might have been responsible for a bomb that went off only days after a minority Hindu nationalist government was sworn in.

A four-storey building, containing at least 30 shops and a dancing school, was ablaze from top to bottom and police said the toll could grow.

Witnesses said some people managed to get out of the building before fire engulfed it completely, but police said they feared some had not. "We are looking for more bodies," said one senior policeman.

"Dance classes were being held on the top floor," said shopkeeper Yogeshwar Sharma.

"At least 16 people are dead and at least 35 injured, some of them seriously," said another senior policeman at the scene.

The blast damaged electricity poles and the authorities switched off supplies to the area to prevent short-circuits starting more fires.

Only emergency floodlights lit up the devastation in the popular Lalpat Nagar shopping area, which is usually packed with thousands of people, including whole families, at the time of day when the bomb went off.

"It is a car bomb blast," a police spokesman told Reuters. Witnesses said a completely wrecked Maruti 800 cc car at the

blast site suggested it may have been carrying the bomb.

The Indian capital has been hit in the last year by Sikh militants from the northern state of Punjab as well as Moslem separatist guerrillas from Kashmir.

The Press Trust of India reported that a man claiming to speak for the Jammu and Kashmir Islamic Front said it and another group, Lashkar-e-Sajjad, were responsible for yesterday's bomb.

The news agency quoted him as saying the groups had taken "this serious step to thwart the government's efforts to hold elections in the (Kashmir) valley".

Two of Jammu and Kashmir state's six parliamentary constituencies vote on Thursday with at least 40,000 extra paramilitary policemen sent in to provide security.

Moslem militants, who have been fighting Delhi's rule of the Himalayan region since 1990, have called for a poll boycott.

The voting in Jammu and Kashmir, largely Hindu India's only Moslem-majority state, is being held later than in the rest of India to allow extra paramilitary policemen to be moved in. Police and hospitals say more than 20,000 people have been killed in a six-year rebellion in the Himalayan region.

On the first day of the elections, April 27, a bomb killed 12 people on a bus soon after it left New Delhi.

The only claim of responsibility for that bomb came from Sikh and Kashmiri groups who had said they were also responsible for the collapse of a cheap hotel in central Delhi five days earlier in which 18 people died.

Bangladesh revolt over

DHAKA (AP) - Soldiers who went on a rampage after their army commander was fired returned to their barracks yesterday, ending a two-day insurrection, the Defense Ministry said.

The report could not be immediately confirmed, but it came after the dismissed commander was placed under government custody and urged to order his soldiers to stop fighting.

"The situation is well under control," the ministry said in a statement read on state-run television.

The government deployed hundreds of soldiers in and around Dhaka yesterday in an effort to stop the rebellion.

Witnesses said the rebellious

soldiers stopped out of two garrisons north of Dhaka on Monday night and began moving toward the capital after clashing with loyal forces.

Yesterday, fighting between pro- and anti-government forces broke out at a third garrison outside the capital, reporters said.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas, who fired Lt. Gen. Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim, 50, on Sunday, accused the popular army chief of ordering his troops to challenge the government.

On Monday night, state TV confirmed the clashes by broadcasting appeals every 30 minutes to the rebel soldiers to return to their barracks and surrender to avoid being punished.

Aung Suu Kyi defies military

RANGOON (Reuters) - Myanmar democracy leader Aung Suu Kyi said yesterday the authorities had detained 44 activists planning to attend a National League for Democracy (NLD) congress, but she said the meeting would still go ahead.

"We know 46 people have been arrested, 44 elected representatives and two wives who were taken because their husbands were not home," Suu Kyi said by telephone from Rangoon. "Yes, of course," she said

when asked if she would still hold the NLD congress, which is due to begin on Sunday.

A diplomat speaking from the Myanmar capital said Suu Kyi and the military were now on a collision course: "It's fairly clear that both sides are heading for a showdown on Sunday."

The planned NLD congress is being held to mark the sixth anniversary of the 1990 election. The party won more than 80 percent of the seats but was denied power by the ruling military.



Like to Gamble? Take a Chance!

Chance - the game for those who like to gamble. You decide how much to spend, you decide the prize. Every correct guess wins: if one of the cards you chose is correct, you win a prize. There's a new Chance draw every day.

Chance - every correct guess wins



Treaty-signers find Assad unyielding

ANALYSIS
PINHAS INBARI

LAST week's summit of the three Arab leaders who have signed peace agreements with Israel - President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, King Hussein of Jordan, and Palestinian Authority chairman Yasser Arafat - had the appearance of an effort to forge a united front against their common threat - radical Islam, encouraged by Iran.

But it is still early to tell to what extent the three can overcome their old rivalries. To begin with there are the growing difficulties Jordan is facing, as regards both its internal stability and the external threats the kingdom faces.

Among one of the important developments in Jordan has been the start of American military deployment in some of its desert areas, and reconnaissance flights by US aircraft over Iraq.

This should help to enhance Jordanian stability. But Jordan's Arab neighbors perceive the situation differently and are pressuring the king not to run so fast into cooperating so closely with US security interests.

Not surprisingly, the most serious pressure has come from Syria. Last week Jordanian sources revealed that a group of Palestinian terrorists had been caught crossing from Syria into Jordan with weapons and explosives.

They could have been destined to reinforce Hamas elements inside the PA and the territories, but this is unlikely to be the case as Hamas scarcely needs them, since its military machine is not short of munitions.

It is more likely that Syria intended to beef up opposition elements opposed to the regime inside Jordan itself. If this is the case, Syria would have crossed a red line, meaning the tension between the two rivals is no longer merely bilateral but shows a Syrian desire to undermine the newly installed US military positions in Jordan.

Most likely, Damascus has no interest in weakening US positions in the region per se, but it is worried that any consolidation of an American military presence will be at the expense of Syria's own pivotal role.

President Assad is hamstrung by his own powerful internal security apparatus, which has no interest in peace with Israel, as well as by his own rigid mentality. His deeply rooted pattern of behavior is to seek political advantage by force and intimidation.

The threat to Jordan's internal stability stems from Syrian frustration over the outcome of the Gulf war. Damascus and Cairo had expected to be responsible for maintaining regional security in the Gulf, according to the Damascus Declaration.

But the Gulf emirs, tacitly supported by Washington, had other ideas. American bases being established in Jordan will cooperate with the similar bases set up in the Gulf, bypassing any key Syrian role.

Arafat's participation in the tripartite summit in Cairo did not imply he is becoming enthusiastic about easing Jordanian worries, despite the fact that the main aim of the summit was an effort to press Assad to overcome his hesitation, leave his alliance with Iran, and join the peace process.

Last week Arafat went to Nablus



Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak: His priorities in the region may have to change.

where he praised Saudi Arabia's role in supporting the Palestinians and ignored Jordan altogether; and an anticipated visit by Arafat to Jordan was again delayed. In the security coordination which was the background to the Cairo summit, the Palestinian side did not take part - only Jordan and Egypt. Instead of waiting for Arafat to shift, King Hussein went to Turkey, a sign that he does not

expect much to come of Arafat and Mubarak's efforts to deter any Syrian threat.

It seems Egypt may need to do some soul searching in regard to its relations with Syria. If, after Israel's elections, there is still no change of heart in Damascus, and Assad continues to prefer Hashemi Rafsanjani over Bill Clinton, Mubarak too will have to rearrange his priorities in the region.

Iraqis celebrate break in sanctions

IRAQIS took to the streets and fired guns into the air to celebrate Monday's oil-for-food deal representing the first sign of economic relief after almost six years of UN sanctions.

Barefoot children in shabby clothes danced in the streets of the capital and women in black abbas stood on their doorsteps shouting encouragement to their neighbors.

The announcement on state-run Baghdad Radio that the government had agreed to limited oil sales sent Iraqis running out of their houses in this normally subdued capital.

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz had contacted UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali "informing him of Iraq's approval" of the oil-for-food deal, the official Iraqi News Agency reported.

In Baghdad, some men fired their guns into the air, a traditional form of celebration in a country where most households have weapons.

The UN sanctions, imposed after Saddam's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, have left this oil-rich country desolate.

Saddam had repeatedly rejected UN offers for limited oil sales, calling it an infringement of Iraqi sovereignty. But as the country's economic condition steadily worsened, he agreed to the deal which will allow Iraq to sell \$1 billion of oil every 90 days for an initial six-

month period so it can buy food and medicine.

The government gave no indication of when it would start exporting oil, but Iraq's chief negotiator in New York, Abdul Amir Anbari, said he expects the oil to start pumping in about a month.

Meanwhile, the evidence of Iraq's impoverishment is visible throughout the capital.

At traffic lights in Baghdad, dirty children in torn clothes beg for money. In hospitals, there is an acute shortage of basic medicines.

About 4,500 Iraqi children have been dying each month from a variety of illnesses, up from 600 a month before the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, according to UNICEF.

In many cases, middle-class families have sold their furniture to buy food, turning traditional food markets into giant flea markets.

The government has instituted a rationing system that provides rice, sugar, tea, and cooking oil for every Iraqi. That warded off starvation, but not illnesses such as malnutrition.

There was virtually no malnutrition in Iraq prior to the 1990-91 Gulf crisis. Now, there are more than 20,000 cases a month, UNICEF reported.

Before the 1991 Gulf war, annual income for the average Iraqi was around \$3,000. Today, it's perhaps a few hundred dollars.

The average salary for a civil servant is around 5,000 dinars, less than \$10 a month.

Monday's agreement led to an immediate rise in the value of the Iraqi dinar. It went from 790 dinars to the dollar in the morning to 550 by evening.

The government has taken a number of steps this year to improve living conditions, most of them successful.

It has driven down food prices by pumping its "strategic food reserves" into government shops. As prices fell in government stores, private shopkeepers had no choice but to follow suit.

The money should also help solve the worsening medical problems in a country that had one of the best health-care systems in the Middle East prior to the sanctions.

Iraq's health-care budget was more than \$400 million a year before the 1991 war, but it has fallen to around \$25 million.

At the Saddam Central Hospital for Children, Dr. Mohammed Maher recently provided a grim tour through a ward filled with crying, malnourished children.

When the oil money was flowing, Iraq had sophisticated medical equipment and imported large numbers of nurses from Egypt, India and Cuba. "As you can see, we need help and we need it fast," Maher said.

(News Agencies)

Palestinians outline ideas on Jerusalem

SENIOR Palestinian official Ahmed Qreia has told *The Jerusalem Post* that Palestinians will accept that Jerusalem should remain a united city with open access for all, if Israel agrees to the principle of Palestinian sovereignty in the territories, Gaza and eastern parts of Jerusalem.

Qreia, the speaker of the elected Palestinian council, was one of the chief negotiators in the secret Oslo talks and he is expected to head the Palestinian delegation to the final-status talks on Jerusalem.

He was elected to the Palestinian council in the Jerusalem area. "We can agree on all kinds of arrangements in Jerusalem, including a joint municipality, if Israel will accept the principle of Palestinian sovereignty," he said.

He said sovereignty is the key to resolving all outstanding issues and that Jerusalem is not the most difficult of them. The most difficult issues, he said, are Palestinian refugees and the sharing of water resources.

He said since neither Israelis nor Palestinians are interested in inter-

nationalizing Jerusalem, as suggested by the United Nations, a compromise can be worked out.

Qreia said that until now all negotiations on Jerusalem have been held at unofficial levels and none of the proposals so far put forward have proved acceptable to either side. Nonetheless, he said, he would not dismiss them as mere intellectual exercises.

He said it was too early for either Israel or the Palestinians to concede any ground on Jerusalem since this would weaken their official negotiating positions.

Sari Nusseibeh, a prominent east Jerusalemite who is close to Yasser Arafat, said the unofficial negotiations which have been in session should be taken seriously since their contents may serve as guidelines for the final-status talks.

Nusseibeh is president of al-Quds University in east Jerusalem and has been writing about possible compromises. Nusseibeh also talks of the necessity of keeping Jerusalem physically united,

though it may be politically divided.

He said Teddy Kollek's idea of dividing Jerusalem into local self-governing councils with representatives in the municipality could be part of the solution.

He suggested that each side, Israeli and Palestinian, form a sub-municipality to govern the affairs of the councils. There could be a joint municipality on top of the Israeli and Palestinian sub-municipalities.

This joint body would be responsible for city planning, water supplies, sewage systems and other services, while the sub-municipalities would deal with cultural matters.

He said that in Israeli areas of Jerusalem, Israeli law should apply, in Palestinian districts, Palestinian law. But Nusseibeh said Israelis and Palestinians should be fully free to move around the whole city.

"We should reverse the present system. Instead of putting up check-points into the city, we should check people leaving it to enter Israeli or Palestinian areas."

He conceded that security control of the city would be a problem and suggested a demilitarized city - "a city of peace, I would call it."

Other suggestions have been floated such as dividing the capital into Israeli Jerusalem, Arab Jerusalem, and the Old City - which would have special status.

There each religion would be in charge of its holy shrines, in a similar arrangement to the present one. The areas of Palestinian Jerusalem would have to be negotiated.

PA officials say they have no wish to pressure Israel on the issue of Jerusalem before the elections. They say they have distanced themselves from controversial leaflets issued by council member Hatem Abdel Kader, in which he called for a Palestinian struggle for Jerusalem.

Kader said he meant "a non-violent struggle." Palestinian officials said the leaflets do not represent the position of the PA, even though Abdel Kader is himself a member of the elected council's Jerusalem committee.

Saudis dismiss threats to US interests

SAUDI Arabia's defense minister played down threats of attacks on US interests if four men charged in a November bombing were punished. The minister said the kingdom would apply Islamic law against them, the Arab News daily reported this week.

Speaking to reporters in the eastern city of Al-Kharj, Prince Sultan said the threats were "childish" and would not deter

the kingdom from carrying out its Islamic laws.

Sultan was commenting on a US State Department statement saying the US Embassy in Riyadh had received an anonymous phone call threatening attacks on American interests if the four Saudis were punished.

The statement said the US Embassy and consulates in the kingdom had also been sent drawings that could be interpreted

as bomb threats against American personnel and the Saudi-American International School in Riyadh.

Sultan's comment about pressing ahead with Islamic laws suggested the four men could be beheaded.

They were charged in the November 13 car-bombing at a US-run training facility in Riyadh that killed five Americans and two Indians. (AP)

Lebanon jails warlord Geagea for life

ONETIME warlord Samir Geagea was sentenced to death this week for murdering a rival Christian leader in 1990.

It was the second death sentence for murder Geagea has been handed. But like the previous one, the latest was immediately commuted to life imprisonment.

Geagea, the former leader of the now-disbanded Lebanese Forces militia, had pleaded innocent to murdering Elias Zayek, who headed a rival faction in the right-wing Christian Phalange Party, in the coastal town of Byblos north of Beirut on January 19, 1990.

The three-judge tribunal handed down the verdict at the end of a four-month trial in Beirut. Four other accomplices also were condemned to death for Zayek's murder, but the sentences were reduced to long prison terms.

They are Ghassan Touma, Tony Obeid, Rafik Saadeh and Raymond Jerjes. All were members of Geagea's Lebanese Forces. During the 1975-90 civil war, it was the main militia of Lebanon's Maronite Catholics, the country's largest Christian sect.

Only Saadeh and Jerjes were with Geagea in court when the verdict was read. Touma and Obeid are still at large.

The court ordered Geagea and

bis accomplices to pay about \$1 million to Zayek's family.

Geagea, 45, was sentenced to death last summer for engineering the assassination of another rival Christian leader, Dani Chamoun, along with his half-German wife and two sons.

Chamoun, his wife Ingrid Abdel-Noor and his sons, Tarek and Julian, were shot to death at their home in the Beirut suburb of Baabda on October 23, 1991, by gunmen posing as Lebanese soldiers.

Geagea is the only militia chief to have been convicted of crimes committed during the civil war, in

which more than 150,000 people perished.

The sentence cannot be appealed. Only President Elias Hrawi can alter the ruling and he has not said so far whether he will.

The slim, balding Geagea is also accused of masterminding the bombing of a church in the Christian-populated port city of Jounieh on February 27, 1994.

Eleven worshippers were killed and 60 were wounded. He is still awaiting trial on that charge.

Geagea, once the country's most feared Christian leader, has been held in a Defense Ministry prison since April 21, 1994. (AP)

Teheran paper blasts radio transmitter

A newspaper this week called for a war of the airwaves with Kuwait for allowing construction of a powerful transmitter that boosts US radio programming to Iran and Iraq.

"Installation of the transmitter should be regarded as a kind of collaboration by this sheikhdom with the United States in pursuit of its hostility against the Islamic republic," the hard-line *Jomhuri Islami* daily said.

It added that the least Teheran could do in retaliation was to let Kuwaiti dissidents set up a radio station in southern Iran that would beam signals into Kuwait.

Iran's powerful parliament speaker, Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri, said the transmitter could hurt Teheran's ties with Kuwait.

"The American utilization of this

radio transmitter against Iran is in no way tolerable to us. It also will not be tolerable for Kuwait officials to see bilateral ties suffer," Teheran television quoted him as saying.

The editorial and Nateq-Nouri's comments coincided with the visit of Kuwait's parliament speaker, Ahmed al-Saadoun, on a visit to Teheran.

Iran's foreign minister, Ali Akbar Velayati, raised Teheran's concerns regarding Israel at a meeting with Saadoun, the official Kuwaiti News Agency quoted Kuwaiti diplomatic sources as saying.

Velayati told Saadoun that Iran was concerned about visits by Israeli leaders to certain Gulf countries, KUNA said.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres recently visited Qatar and Oman,

the first Gulf countries to open trade ties with Israel.

Iran, which fiercely opposes the Arab-Israeli peace process, asked Muscat to delay a planned visit by an Omani government minister following the Peres visit.

It was not known whether the transmitter figured in al-Saadoun's talks with Iranian officials, including President Hashemi Rafsanjani.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency said that in talks this week both Saadoun and Rafsanjani expressed an interest in expanding relations between their two countries.

In their first meeting, Nateq-Nouri called for Gulf coordination to lessen the US military presence in the region. But Saadoun defended Kuwait's military accords with Washington, saying they were

needed to counter threats from Iraq.

Last week the US inaugurated a powerful 600-kilowatt radio transmitter for use primarily by the Voice of America. The transmitter is beaming jam-proof signals as far away as Central Asia.

Listeners in Iran and Iraq, the two regional countries Washington identifies as most hostile to its interests, will no longer need short-wave radios, making US programs available on home and car radios.

But Teheran still has the upper hand in the war of the airwaves it launched in 1979 to export its Islamic revolution. Its own Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran beams programs in 21 languages, including Arabic, using transmitters more than twice as powerful as the one in Kuwait. (News Agencies)

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A contradiction in terms

THERE was something irresistibly simple about Prime Minister Shimon Peres's solution to the Israeli-Palestinian problem. Postulating that there are two reasons for Palestinian bitterness and hostility - the Israeli occupation and a low standard of living - he came up with seemingly obvious solutions.

To eliminate the first cause of unrest, Israel withdrew from the Arab towns and villages in the territories, and let the Palestinians establish a self-ruling political entity which will inevitably become a sovereign state.

But raising the living standards of a population of almost two million is obviously a far more complicated problem. Peres knew that only a massive international effort, led by the US, can transform a relatively backward system to a thriving, modern economy.

Such a massive effort is not beyond the ability of the US and the other economic giants. The US alone implemented the monumental Marshall Plan which rehabilitated Europe after World War II. Loans, investments and grants from the world's rich democracies should put the Palestinian Authority on its economic feet, Peres believes. And he has managed to persuade the industrial nations not only that such a goal is desirable, but that it is eminently attainable. As a result of his efforts, a group of donor nations has pledged more than \$1 billion to the PA.

To Peres's credit it must be said that the notion of a Middle East Marshall Plan is not a product of the Oslo agreements. He proposed it at least a dozen years ago. It is based on the assumption that prosperity is a potent antidote to murderous animosity. Terrorists are bred in miserable refugee camps, Peres seems to believe, not in seaside villas.

That Iran, one of the region's richest countries, has become the fountainhead of today's terrorism seems to militate against this supposition. But even if the premise is valid, there are fatal flaws in the plan. The most obvious of these is that unlike the European participants in the Marshall Plan - democracies with a highly developed economic culture - the PA is a hopelessly corrupt, villainous police state like most of the regimes in the region.

This is why it should not be surprising that the conference of donor nations held in Brussels on April 11-13 had second thoughts about their commitments to the PA. The emergency funding approved at the conference amounted to a piddling \$27 million, earmarked for the PA's

public works projects and a project proposed by the UN to support small workshops. To add insult to injury from the PA's viewpoint, the amount will be taken from money already pledged previously to the PA - which means that the conference produced no additional financial assistance.

Peace Watch, the non-partisan organization monitoring the implementation of the Oslo agreement, reports that both Israeli and Palestinian sources sense a steep decline in the donors' willingness to provide assistance to the PA. The donors are disappointed by the way the Oslo agreement is being implemented. They cite in particular the uncertainty about amending the PLO Covenant, the grave doubts about the way the elections to the Palestinian Council were conducted, and the delay in Israel's withdrawal from Hebron.

But much of their concern has to do with purely economic issues. The donor nations demand for financial "transparency," specifically their request that all PA financial activity be conducted through the PA Finance Ministry (which is subject to International Monetary Fund auditing), has not been met. The donors have discovered that the PA's Office of the President was conducting unaudited financial activities: using monies paid by foreign corporations doing business with the PA (mainly Israeli firms), while bypassing the Finance Ministry. Funding from various sources would also find its way directly to the Palestinian Preventive Security Forces, without ever going through the supervised Finance Ministry.

Perturbed by such irregularities, the donors refused to subsidize the income of PA employees. As a result, the PA was forced to declare a five percent salary cut for all employees.

Another factor which contributes to the donors' pessimism is that Israel does not seem to want to lift the closure in the near future. The loss to the Palestinian economy because of this closure is conservatively estimated at \$1 million a day. But Israel is understandably unwilling to trade its security for Palestinian relief.

The vision of a prosperous Middle East is unexceptionable even if it fails to counter the appeal and fervor of Islamic militancy. No one in his right mind can object to a better life. But the Oslo negotiators were so eager to produce a lightning agreement they failed to understand that prosperity with Arafat as partner is a contradiction in terms.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE POLITICS OF HUNGER

Sir, - It is easy to recognize mistakes after you have made them. It is much harder to recognize mistakes while you are making them.

Muslim Palestinians just want to be able to feed their children and have a reasonable opportunity to attain self-respect. They have a chance to do this with the peace process. Hamas, on the other hand, has different aims. To achieve them, it must win the hearts of the Palestinians. This is difficult when they have full stomachs. The bombs they sent to Tel Aviv and Jerusalem were not aimed at just killing a few Jews. They were aimed at emptying the stomachs of the Palestinians. This aim has been successful. We have closed Gaza, so that the pressure cooker can heat up. The Hamas people are laughing their heads off at how easy it was.

Now you see Palestinian policemen trying to suppress demonstrations of Hamas. This is very similar to the beginnings of the Iranian revolution. Soon the demonstrations will get bigger. They will turn into riots. The hungry policemen will turn around and join the rioters. Arafat will fall as easily as the Shah of Iran fell. Of course the clowns in Likud and Labor will be busy electioneering and debating whether it is worthwhile to give up the Golan.

When Gaza turns into Teheran, all our fantastic weapons of war will be useless. You cannot fight women and children with an F-15. Israel will look like Bosnia and Beirut combined. There will be a war far worse than anything in our history. It will happen so quickly that there will be no time to stop and go back. The peace process with Arab neighbors will be irrelevant. The world will be as impotent as it is in Bosnia.

If we are to do something, we must do it now. The closure of Gaza must be lifted. We must make every effort to fill the stomachs of the Palestinians. A border crossing capable of moving people and securely must be built. This would allow produce and labor to cross, but not bombs. Some bombs will inevitably get through. These, we will have to take in our stride. The alternative is far worse.

CLIVE BLUSTON
Karmel, Netanya.

ANTI-ZIONISTS

Sir, - May I comment on the letters by Dr. Berthold Wylter, "Eye on the Media," and by L. Yuval, "Please, stop it" (April 2).

First, we have to realize that anti-semitism has undergone a fundamental change since Hitler and the Nazis, the only ones who added the racial dimension to Jew-hatred and rendered the term universally ugly and therefore unusable. While there are many antisemites about who hate Jews for all sorts of reasons, some now call themselves anti-Zionists and deny that they are antisemites. Anti-Zionism is unique in only one way: it is the first form of Jew-hatred to deny that it hates Jews. Whether they call themselves anti-Zionists or not, a considerable number of editors, journalists and other media personalities, including some self-hating Jews, fall into this category. They can easily be recognized by their almost constant criticism of Israel and pro-PLO stance.

Mr. Hugh-Jones is but the latest in a long line of editors and journalists exposed by David Bar-Ilan in his "Eye on the Media" column for the anti-Zionist antisemites that they are. The almost continuous Israel-bashing by "some of our best friends," proves the old Dr. Goebbels adage, that "if one tells the same lies long enough, people will begin to believe them."

Messrs. Wylter and Yuval inveigh against David Bar-Ilan without one single piece of specific evidence to disprove what he said about the international editor of *The Economist*. Mr. Hugh-Jones admitted having said that "Jews have no more right to Israel than Amazon Indians to California." This remark, in whatever context it was used, is the clearest possible evidence of his thinking. His article in *The Economist*, "Did he say it or didn't he?" provides proof of his hacking for Arafat and his rejection of proof in Arafat's many speeches since Oslo of his clear intention of wanting to destroy Israel.

David Bar-Ilan deserves our sincere thanks for his unceasing battle against our media enemies. It is sad that there are not more of his caliber both here and abroad.

BILL OAKFIELD
Netanya.

NORWOOD OLD SCHOLARS

Sir, - It is planned to form an Israel branch of the Norwood Old Scholars Association (NOSA) and I would like to hear from any boy or girl who was a resident at the Jewish Orphanage, West Norwood in London. Should any of your readers know of any such people who are not already in contact with me, I would be grateful if they would contact me or arrange for the person concerned to contact me by telephone, 09-629341, or fax, 09-840966.

KENNETH BERG
Netanya.

MEMORIES

Sir, - I was reading Meir Ronnen's article of April 3, "Picant and the Curleis," and it brought back moving memories for me.

Years ago, I lived in Barranquilla, Colombia. We had some very nice neighbors called Curleis. They were Catholic as far as we knew. But every Friday night before sunset, Mrs. Curleis lit two candles in her front-room window. One day, I asked her why she lit those candles on Friday night. She replied: "My great-grandmother lit them, my grandmother lit them, and my mother told me I must never forget to do so."

REGINA J. CHURBA
Netanya (Manchester).

RECIPES

Sir, - In your interesting article, "Pessah nostalgia" in your Pessah supplement, Ms. Cashman mentions that she has never been able to emulate the exact taste of her mother's egg and onion mixture. May I suggest she use chicken fat (*shmanz*) to bind the mixture. Today, most people use oil or margarine, which may be good for one's cholesterol level, but not one's taste buds.

NOMI KALISCH
Netanya.

LISTEN!

Sir, - In his article of April 9, "The old opposition," Abba Eban says: "The least debt we owe to the Israeli opposition is to understand what it says."

I would like to suggest to Mr. Eban that the least debt he owes to himself is to understand what Arafat says. Mr. Eban is not listening and/or understanding.

ROSALY EVNINE
Jerusalem.



Harvesting the grapes

AS Operation Grapes of Wrath proceeds, certain questions need to be faced urgently.

Should we begin diplomatic negotiations now? With whom? What should the objective of such negotiations be?

Clearly, if we begin negotiations after the IDF has succeeded in ending Hizbullah's rocket fire on Galilee, we will be in a far stronger position than if we negotiate while Katyushas are still falling on northern Israel. Background music of that kind won't strengthen our hand in the negotiations, and ongoing negotiations can only make it more difficult for the IDF to complete its job.

If our political leadership allows it, the IDF can certainly restore tranquility to Galilee. One only hopes that the leadership will have the wisdom, stamina, and determination to let the IDF finish the job before it enters into negotiations.

There should be no negotiations with Hizbullah. Written or unwritten "understandings" with this terrorist organization, sworn to Israel's destruction, are less than worthless. If anybody had any doubts on this score, the serious mistakes inherent in the "understandings" reached after Operation Accountability - by now probably clear even to those in our government who saw them as an achievement at the time - should serve as an object lesson in what not to do this time.

Although Syria might initially seem the obvious partner for negotiating an agreement that would assure peace for Galilee, it is most unlikely that such an agreement can be reached at the present time.

Although Lebanon is no more than Syria's - or more correctly, Assad's - puppet, the Syrian dictator continues with the charade that the government in Beirut is sovereign, and that he, while sympathizing with Hizbullah, can do nothing to prevent it from attacking Israel.

There remains the Lebanese government. It will do nothing

MOSHE ARENS

without Assad's approval, but Operation Grapes of Wrath, if successfully concluded, may create the incentive in Damascus necessary to encourage the Lebanese to take the task of restraining Hizbullah upon themselves.

A written agreement with the government in Beirut to this effect would likely bring about the stability and tranquility we seek on our northern border, setting the stage

The government's response to attacks by Hizbullah in the last three years has been ambiguous. It must now be clear

for an eventual withdrawal of the IDF from southern Lebanon.

That should be our aim when negotiations begin, and nothing short of it should be acceptable. But it is possible that the domestic penalties of such an agreement, as perceived in Damascus and Beirut, are such as to preclude its attainment.

THAT WOULD leave Israel with two options: deterring the launch of Katyusha rockets by guaranteeing a massive response; or making sure that Katyusha launchers are not positioned within range of our northern border.

It is being said that Katyushas in the Galilee were, and will continue to be part of the lives of Israelis who live in the North until a comprehensive peace with all our neighbors is achieved. But the facts contradict this defeatist complacency.

For almost 10 years, from Operation Peace for Galilee in June 1982 until the killing of Hizbullah leader Abbas Musawi

in February 1992, not a single Katyusha was fired from Lebanon against Israel.

Until the second redeployment of the IDF into the present security zone in 1985 the launchers were out of range, and over the following seven years, even though the security zone was narrower than the range of the Katyushas, the memory of Operation Peace for Galilee was evidently sufficient to deter all parties involved - Hizbullah, the Shi'ite villagers in southern Lebanon, the government in Beirut, and Assad in Damascus - from returning to the tactics that brought such disastrous results to Lebanon in 1982.

And when, after Musawi's death, the Katyushas reappeared for a few days, a quick and effective IDF response in the air and on the ground, accompanied by a message to Damascus that this was only the beginning unless the rocket attacks ceased, was sufficient to restore quiet.

Unfortunately, the Labor government's ambiguous response to Hizbullah's attacks over the past three years - the "understandings" with Hizbullah of 1993, the restraint shown after numerous Hizbullah attacks against the IDF and against Galilee towns and villages, the prime minister's apology to Hizbullah for so-called mistakes of the IDF last month - has managed to erode our deterrent capability and led to deterioration of the situation.

Hopefully the current operation will lead the Lebanese government, under Syrian tutelage, to the conclusion that Hizbullah must be curbed.

Even lacking a formal agreement, the operation, if successfully completed, will serve as an effective reminder to all concerned that allowing Hizbullah to attack Israel in the future will entail prohibitive consequences.

If that doesn't work, there will be no alternative to pushing the Katyushas out of range.

The writer is a former defense minister.

Fruit that is pure poison

THERE used to be peace over Israel's northern frontier. Before the establishment of the state, I once got lost on my way to a northern border settlement. Some elderly Arabs I met greeted me warmly, and a friendly Lebanese officer took me back to the border.

Nothing unusual here: Farmers from both sides would frequently wave to each other. Sometimes they would meet and exchange greetings. In the first years of the state this was the norm along the border with Lebanon, even as there was continual violence on Israel's other fronts.

When the Lebanon war broke out in 1982, the Shi'ite population was still extremely friendly toward Israelis. In the first week of the war I managed to cross the border, with two other journalists. We passed a dozen Shi'ite villages. Everywhere we were invited for coffee.

I had heard that the Shi'ite population was welcoming the IDF with showers of rice, but I wouldn't have believed three unprotected Israeli civilians would be so warmly received. These were the very same villages whose names we now hear in daily media reports of bloody violence.

How could devoted friends of Israel turn into people who hate Israel profoundly? The answer can be summed up in two words: security zone.

When Ariel Sharon and Rafael Eitan began the disastrous 1982 invasion of Lebanon, the Shi'ites, hoping for liberation from the Palestinian yoke, were correctly assumed to be friends of Israel. In the space of several months, this archangel duo, Ariel and Rafael, worked a full-fledged miracle,

URI AVNERY

transforming hundreds of thousands of Shi'ites from docile farmers to daring guerrillas sworn to fight Israel.

The Shi'ites, like then-prime minister Menachem Begin, initially believed Sharon's promise that the IDF would go home after expelling the PLO. But when the Israelis turned into conquerors with no plans to leave, the Shi'ites rose up and in a guerrilla war succeeded in repelling the IDF from much of the conquered territory. Thus they became the dominant force in South Lebanon.

Had the IDF withdrawn to the

It turned friends of Israel into profound enemies

international border, quiet would likely have returned. Instead, Israel remained in Lebanon, a recipe for disaster. Hizbullah, which had been a negligible religious-extremist group, became to its people a liberation army. Its popularity swelled enormously.

ISRAEL tried everything: shellings, raids, the murder of Hizbullah leaders and their families, the abduction of commanders, and ultimately, the expulsion of hundreds of thousands of Shi'ites from their villages in "Operation Accountability." Nothing helped.

Israel found itself riding a tiger called the security zone, and it was scared to dismount, lest it be

devoured. Meanwhile, the Lebanon war, planned as a 48-hour operation, dragged on for 14 years.

Now a new episode in the Lebanon saga has begun. A group of politicians and generals, all with spectacular records of failure in Lebanon, are trying the old methods anew.

Foreign Minister Barak asserts that he is out to "teach Hizbullah a lesson." Rafael Eitan proposes that Israel conquer the region again, a disastrous idea that would expose thousands of IDF ground troops to a new generation of suicide attackers. And Shimon Peres returns to Rabin's Operation Accountability.

We have heard many excuses for the escalation of violence in Lebanon: Elections are around the corner. There is (justified) fury in the border settlements. The Israeli public demands action.

Yet we know that failure is virtually guaranteed. After all, expelling the Shi'ite population from South Lebanon does not alienate it from Hizbullah. Quite the contrary: As Shi'ite refugees take shelter in Hizbullah's social institutions, their rage and dismay only bring the organization more support and volunteers.

For a real solution to the crisis in Lebanon, Israel must move forward in negotiations with Syria and Lebanon, and it must exorcise itself from the security zone. This would deprive Hizbullah of its "war of liberation" excuse, and the population would no longer have reason to support the organization in continued attacks on Israel, returning Hizbullah to the extremist fringe.

The writer is head of the Peace Bloc.

Our mistake

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

THURSDAY'S terrible tragedy in Kana in Southern Lebanon in which more than 100 Lebanese civilians were killed and scores more wounded is highly disturbing.

First and foremost is one's shock and dismay over the shattered bodies, many children and old people.

The senseless carnage would have been unbearable under any circumstances. But the knowledge that our forces were responsible, albeit unintentionally, makes the tragedy all the harder to stomach.

No one in Israel was naive enough to believe that we could fire thousands of artillery shells at Hizbullah fighters and not occasionally hit some innocent civilian. But the assumption was that if the IDF can identify the spot to which a Hizbullah fighter has fled after firing his Katyusha, well, it can certainly spot a group of 250 civilians taking refuge in a UNIFIL camp.

The conclusion? Either someone spotted them but was willing to risk their lives in the attainment of some short-term tactical gain, or - as seems more likely - the IDF was so immersed in its "surgical operation" that it ignored everything apart from its targets.

The army did warn the local population to vacate areas likely to turn into battlegrounds. But that doesn't mean it wasn't obliged to do everything it could to avoid hitting anyone who ignored the warnings.

Israel has always known that Hizbullah is ready to endanger the lives of innocent Lebanese civilians by taking refuge behind or among them. And so its reaction to the Kana tragedy, effectively that "what happened there is exactly what Hizbullah wanted," is hardly a worthy one.

Since we knew what Hizbullah is capable of, we should have been all the more careful not to fall into the trap it set for us.

Israel, unlike Hizbullah, has always tried to avoid harming civilians. But the media pictures

Last week's tragedy in Kana was much more than a mishap

from Kana make that fact largely irrelevant as far as world public opinion is concerned.

The Lebanese government is apparently not only incapable of defending Lebanon's interests; it seems totally apathetic as regards the fate of its own citizens.

A normal, effective government would have done one of two things in the situation Hizbullah has created: It would either have tried to neutralize Hizbullah's forces in southern Lebanon by disarming them or curtailing their free movement, or it would actively have encouraged the civilian population to vacate the danger zone temporarily, as did Israel in the case of residents of Upper and Western Galilee.

BUT THE Lebanese government is Assad's vassal (for which state of affairs Israel's attempt to have a pro-Israeli government imposed on Lebanon back in 1982 is at least partly responsible), and thus it is impotent.

Consequently no one feels that it was in any way responsible for the lives of the 100 Lebanese citizens slaughtered at Kana, and since no one expects anything from Hizbullah, it is Israel that emerges as the main culprit.

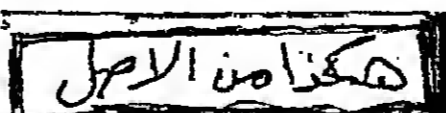
The result is certain to be a lessening of international sympathy for the realization of Israel's main objective in Operation Grapes of Wrath, namely, stopping the Katyushas from falling on the Galilee.

Since it is no secret that Israel's partner for a permanent settlement with Lebanon is Damascus rather than Beirut, and that the attacks on Hizbullah are also designed to get Syria to change its attitude toward the organization, the success of Grapes of Wrath depends totally on its effect on Damascus.

President Assad has to his credit a massacre or two involving the deaths of thousands of civilians, and the loss of 100 Lebanese civilians isn't anything he is likely to lose sleep over. He will thus undoubtedly take advantage of the tragedy to go on dragging his feet and raising difficulties in his negotiations with Israel.

Whether one takes the humanistic approach or an attitude of cold realpolitik, one cannot escape the conclusion that what occurred last week at Kana was much more than a mishap.

The writer is a political scientist.





Potsdamer Platz, Europe's largest urban construction site, will be the site of new office towers.

Two decades of history in a mile

WILHELMSTRASSE, the street that served as center of power for both Otto von Bismarck and Adolf Hitler, is today mainly a stretch of communist-era apartment blocks and offices.

Now with the German government being moved back to Berlin and new construction redefining the street, the city has erected a "fresh-air museum" to give passers-by a glimpse into the thoroughfare's checkered past.

"Many have forgotten what happened here," said Eva Maria Dormann, a Berliner who came out on a bright Sunday to see the exhibit. "Few people want to be confronted with it, and I find that very sad."

Wilhelmstrasse's "History Mile" consists of 23 free-standing glass tablets, with pictures and text explaining what went on over the past two centuries in buildings on the street.

"We want to show the 200-year time span from Prussia, the Kaiser

era, the Weimar Republic, the Nazi regime and East Germany," Berlin's building minister, Jergen Kleemann, said recently in officially opening the display.

Prussia's most important ministries and administration buildings were built on Wilhelmstrasse at the beginning of the 19th century.

Bismarck, the first German chancellor, lived and worked at No. 77 from 1871 to 1890. By the time the Weimar Republic's first president, Friedrich Ebert, moved into his residence at No. 73, the street was on a par with Downing Street in London or Washington's Pennsylvania Avenue.

Hitler lived in Bismarck's quarters until 1939, when he moved into a pompous new chancellery around the corner.

In 1934, the Prince Albert Palace at No. 102 Wilhelmstrasse became the center of Nazi terror: the seat of the Gestapo and the SS headquarters, where Nazi functionaries planned the murder of

Europe's Jews.

Today the plot is empty but for a "Topography of Terror" exhibit in the former cellar, where Nazis tortured political prisoners.

Many of the buildings along the street were destroyed by Allied bombs. Others were dynamited after the war by officials eager to be rid of the reminders of the Nazi era.

The street became part of East Berlin after the war and apartment blocks and offices were erected on the empty plots.

Margot Honecker, wife of communist boss Erich Honecker and East Germany's education minister, had her office at the north end of the street, near the Brandenburg Gate.

Some prewar buildings did survive, such as Hitler's aviation ministry, which the communists turned into the House of the Ministries. The building was the goal of marchers during East Germany's bloody June 17, 1953, uprising, which was put down

with the help of Soviet tanks.

After German unification in 1990, the same building served as the offices of the agency charged with privatizing the East German economy. Plans now are for the German finance ministry to move in by the year 2000.

At the street's north end, the U.S., British and French embassies are to be rebuilt on Paris' largest urban construction site, Potsdamer Platz, where companies like Daimler-Benz and Sony are building new office towers.

The glass tablets are scheduled to remain up until July 31. But as the street changes, some passers-by said they would like to see permanent historical markers erected to remind future generations about the past.

"It's important to show the people what was once here," said Hans Schnitzer of Berlin, pointing to the site of the former Gestapo building. "To say: 'Here the evil began.'"

(AP)

'Beersheba of the Balkans'

The city formerly referred to as Romania's 'Paris of the East' is taking a decidedly Israeli turn

THE only all-night fast-food joint in Bucharest is an Israeli-owned Burger Ranch. Pepsi and Tuborg here are bottled by Israelis. Heinz mustard has a Hebrew label. Israelis run or own a leading ad firm, casinos, a bank, a top hotel, and a central office complex.

One of the biggest employers is the Israeli construction industry. Israelis are building a power plant.

The dusty but economically resurgent Romanian capital was once known as the "Paris of the East" for its attachment to French culture, including its Arch of Triumph, a faithful copy of its bigger brother in Paris. Today, Bucharest might better be termed the "Beersheba of the Balkans," reminiscent of the Negev boom-town.

The phenomenon results from a historical link and shared language, said Jose Iacobescu, chairman of the bustling Israel-Romania Chamber of Commerce. He also noted Romania was the only Soviet-bloc country not to break off ties with Israel after the 1967 war.

Before World War II, Romania was home to 800,000 Jews, one of the largest populations in Europe. Half perished in the Holocaust. Most survivors emigrated to Israel, leaving only about 12,000 Jews, mostly elderly, behind.

Consequently, nearly a half-million Israelis have Romanian ancestry - making Israel home to the world's largest expatriate Romanian community.

And the opportunities of Romania's post-Communist economy, which is starting to grow after six years of crisis and stagnation, are luring thousands back as tourists, students, or business people.

Romania's trade with Israel last year exceeded NIS 750 million. That represents just under 2 percent of Romania's overall trade, but is one of the largest with countries outside Europe and about half of Romania's trade with the U.S. And longer-term projects in the millions of dollars are under consideration.

Gabriela Baicu, deputy head of the Romanian Development Agency that handles the investment, welcomed the trend.

Shoul Eisenberg's Israel Corp. agreed to invest over NIS 300 million in the Grozavesti power plant outside Bucharest.

Sources at the Israel Corp., who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the company was considering further longer-term investments of billions of shekels in Romania.

Israeli importers have filled Romanian shelves - primarily in Bucharest, but increasingly also in other towns - with Israeli brand names like Elite coffee, Prigat juices, Remedia baby food and Osem snacks. Heinz mustard in Bucharest's new supermarkets hails from Israel, bearing a blue-and-yellow Hebrew label on the back.

The prices are out of the reach of most Romanians: a liter of Prigat orange juice, for example, costs 7,800 lei (NIS 8) - more than a half day's average wage. But the number of Romanians making higher salaries is increasing, and importers see this as a hopeful sign for sales.

In addition, the 50,000 Romanian construction workers in Israel earn an estimated NIS 160 million a year. Much of the money is sent back to Romania, where the average monthly wage is still only about NIS 325 (300,000 lei).

When Israelis started flocking to Romania after 1989, one result was a burst of antisemitism from a small segment of the population, with articles in nationalist papers like Romania Mare ("Greater Romania") accusing the Jews of trying to dominate Romania economically.

Lately, that appears to have subsided.

"I used to believe the writings about a Jewish economic plot, but I now realize that... maybe part of the claims are true but not in the way they were presented," said Sietan Alexandrescu, a 68-year-old plumber.

Increasingly, there is a seeming fascination with Israel and pride in the unusual connection.

The top-selling Romanian daily Evenimentul Zilei recently led its front page with the revelation that the new heads of Israel's Mossad intelligence agency and Shin Bet security service, Danny Yatom and Ami Ayalon, are both of Romanian ancestry. (AP)

Pikler was a stickler for child respect

Several weeks ago, you mentioned the Hungarian pediatrician Emmi Pikler. I was intrigued by her ideas about letting young children solve their own problems. Can you tell us more about Pikler and her philosophy?

WITH pleasure, Emmi Pikler, MD, was a distinguished, award-winning pediatrician who ran a group home for infants whose parents could not take care of them in Budapest for more than 40 years. Upon her death several years ago, it was renamed the Pikler Institute.

The essence of Emmi Pikler's philosophy can be summed up in one word: Respect. Based on several decades of observations and studies, she came to the conclusion that infants are born competent and that their competence should be recognized and respected.

That means first and foremost that parents should observe their babies to learn from them what they know, what they like, who they are.

Before you scoop up your four-month-old to change her diaper, you should watch to see what she is doing - even if it's "just" watching a shadow moving on the wall or a particle of dust in a sunbeam - and try not to interrupt.

Respect means you tell your

PARENTING
RUTH MASON

baby when you are about to do something and try to involve her in the decision as well as in her care.

When she is involved in something, you look for an opening and say something like, "I'd like to pick you up and change your diaper now," and then reach out your arms and await her response.

If she reaches her arms up to you or just shifts her attention to you from what she's doing, you pick her up and continue the routine, all the while narrating what you are doing and asking for her help: "I'm going to take off your pants now. Can you pull out your foot?"

If she ignores your outstretched arms and goes back to her toy or book or whatever she was involved in, try to wait a few more minutes.

If you're in a hurry, then you tell her you need to pick her up now and do so.

You start this with the youngest infants. If they don't understand your words, they will soon come to associate your tone with your gestures.

Respect also means realizing that your baby has all the tools to learn what she needs to learn right inside her. It means allowing lots of time and room for

safe, free exploration on the floor.

PIKLER BELIEVED that allowing a child to explore and move was of crucial importance for her gross- and fine-motor development as well as for the development of creativity and problem-solving skills. In carefully watching babies move, she saw that they changed their position on the average of once a minute and that they naturally made all the motions that occupational and physical therapists use with infants who need physical therapy.

In sum, Pikler believed that parents should observe more, do less, not invest in so many toys and gadgets, let babies explore freely without interruption, let the child initiate contact with parents rather than parents' following the urge to entertain her, and let the various stages of gross-motor development happen on their own without urging, propping, walking, etc.

She also spoke out against infant seats, walkers, swings or other contraptions, because a confined baby is one who cannot move freely and develop into the graceful, secure walker that is her birthright to be.

Pikler was widely known in

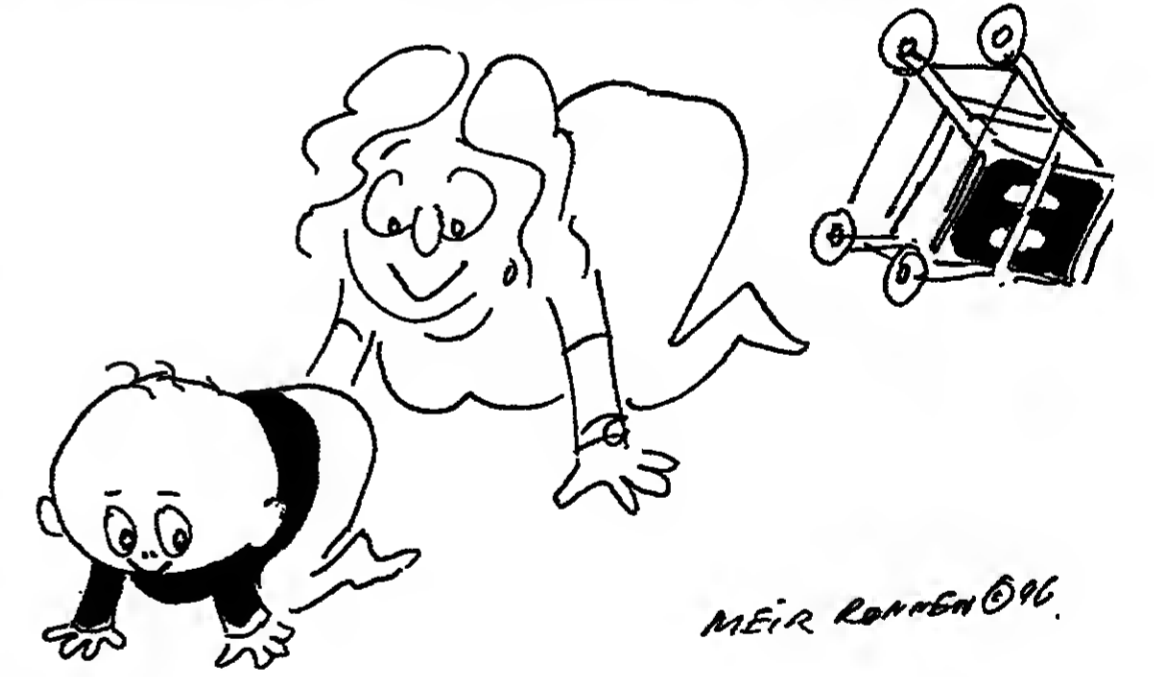
Hungary and in many other European countries, but is little known in the US or Israel.

Her book *Peaceful Babies - Contented Mothers* was translated into German and only partially translated into English in the Sensory Awareness Foundation's winter 1994 bulletin.

Her ideas were brought to the US by a student, child therapist Magda Gerber, who founded Resources for Infant Educators (RIE) in Los Angeles to disseminate Pikler's ideas.

Gerber and her students run parent-infant groups, lecture and hold workshops for parent and child care professionals throughout the US.

For more information about Pikler's ideas, contact RIE, 1550 Murray Circle, Los Angeles, CA 90026, tel. (001-213) 663-5330. It publishes a manual and a newsletter, and offers videotapes and training



for parents and professionals. Words of wisdom update -

Thanks to all of you who have sent in words of wisdom to a new mom. The deadline for sub-

missions is May 31. Watch this column in June for the responses.

"LIBI" THE FUND FOR STRENGTHENING ISRAEL'S DEFENSE

Our Thanks to Nes Ziona

A gala entertainment program was recently staged in the Nes Ziona Heichal Hatarbut, with Yehoram Gaon top of the bill. The event, with Nes Ziona Mayor Yossi Shvo as patron, was organized by the Chairman of the Nes Ziona Friends of Libi, Mrs. Pnina Romano.

The evening was a great success and the proceeds, which were considerable, were passed to the Libi Fund, for use in support of the IDF's education program.

Mayor Yossi Shvo, Libi Chairman Gen. (Res.) Danny Matt, Mrs. Pnina Romano, and Singer Yehoram Gaon.

LIBI - The Fund for Strengthening Israel's Defense
17 Rehov Arania, Tel Aviv 61070
Tel. 03-6975183, 03-6995610, 03-6968206.
Fax. 03-6976743

BIBLE LANDS MUSEUM JERUSALEM

SATURDAY NIGHT CONCERT

An Evening of Art Music
Chazanut Concert with
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Raymond Goldstein (Accompanist)

May 25 at 21:15
Wine and Cheese at 20:30

Admission NIS 35; NIS 30 to Museum members, olim, students, soldiers & seniors.
Proceeds benefit The Jerusalem Post funds.

Next Concert, June 1 at 21:15
The Hebrew University String Quartet
Playing Mozart & Borodin

25 Granot St. Jerusalem, Tel: 02 611068

THE JEWISH FESTIVALS AND HOLY DAYS

Contains reproductions of original watercolors, depicting twelve of the most important days in the Jewish calendar. The naive style paintings by the well known Israeli artist Michal Meron capture the essence of these important days, from austere Yom Kippur to the ebullience of Independence Day. Michal Meron's eye for color and intricate detail combines with an inspirational approach to this unique spiritual heritage. Published by The Studio in Old Jaffa, full color, 32 pp.

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Overseas airmail, please add NIS 15.00. (Allow 3-4 weeks delivery.)

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Please send me _____ copies of The Jewish Festivals by Michal Meron, at NIS 49.00 per copy. Enclosed, please find my check, payable to The Jerusalem Post, or credit card details.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Wednesday, May 22, 1996

Mizrahi issue postponed

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

UNITED Mizrahi Bank's (UMB) share issue, originally scheduled for this month, has been postponed to June following its board of directors' failure to approve the prospectus yesterday. The last day it could be signed in order to go ahead with the issue on June 1.

The issue was planned for next week, one day before the elections, but the board of directors' last-minute efforts to resolve various problems did not succeed.

The main problem which led to the delay was directors' indemnity, with which not all the directors are satisfied. The delay is also due to demands by the bank's owners,

Muzi Wertheim and Yuli Ofer, regarding the options they have for the purchase of another 26% of Mizrahi's shares.

The bank owners are interested in postponing the exercise of the options by a year, while MI Holdings, the state-owned company in charge of the sale, refuses to extend the exercise date.

MI Holdings general manager Meir Yacobson said it is still possible to issue the bank's stock in the coming weeks on condition that UMB's prospectus is approved by month's end.

The prospectus will have to include an abstract of UMB's unaudited financial statements for the first quarter. The approval will enable the government to go ahead with the share issue in June.

Representatives for the issue's leading underwriters said they expect the prospectus to be approved in the next few days.

The issue is expected to raise about NIS 210m., but its success will depend on the situation of the capital market after the elections.

In the meantime, UMB's workers committee is negotiating with the bank's management in an attempt to solve the wage dispute.

Management has agreed to increase severance pay from 120% to 140%, but the workers said this is insufficient.

Survey: Housing demand down 25%

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

The Geocartography survey is based on the results of three surveys conducted during the last six months.

The last survey, in which 600 people participated, was conducted in the first half of May.

Most of the house buyers are between 25 and 44 years old, according to the survey.

About 42% of the potential buyers are looking to buy an apartment for less than \$150,000, 27% for \$150,000-\$200,000, 25% for \$200,000-\$300,000, 3% for \$300,000-\$400,000 and 3% for more than \$400,000.

HOUSING demand has dropped by 20-25 percent in comparison with this time last year, according to results of a new survey released yesterday by the Geocartography Institute.

The results show that only about 15% of the public seriously plan to purchase an apartment over the next two years, compared with some 20% last year.

Geocartography said 46% of the potential apartment buyers plan to buy an apartment within the next year and the remaining 54% the following year.

Dr. Rina Degani the company's

Big US retailers selling sweatshop-made goods

WASHINGTON (AP) - Sweatshop-made goods have been traced to some of America's largest retailers, the US Labor Department said.

JC Penney has been notified by the department for the fourth time in less than a year that it had gotten goods made in a sewing shop that failed to pay its workers the minimum wage and overtime, the department said.

Others receiving sweatshop

goods were Talbots Inc., a national women's wear retailer, and Macy's East, Specialty Retailers, Charlotte Russe and Claire's Boutiques.

Specialty Retailers is the holding company for Palais Royal and Beall's stores.

None of the retailers face any penalties.

But Labor Secretary Robert Reich had said last year he would make public the names of stores whose goods were produced in violation of US wage laws.

"The American public wants to do business with stores that don't do business with sweatshops," Reich said in a statement.

JC Penney said it was "perplexed" by the Labor Department comments.

"The company has been working with other retailers, its suppliers and the [department] to address concerns regarding labor law compliance in the US garment manufacturing industry," said a company statement.

The Plano, Texas, department store chain added that Labor Department officials had said at a May 16 meeting that the two suppliers it cited "had already settled the charges ... by agreeing to pay back wages owed to workers as a result of minimum wage and overtime violations ..."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Students from Arab states apply to new TA business school: Four students from Morocco, two from Oman, and two from Qatar have applied to an MBA program at the newly established Tel Aviv International School of Management, school representatives said yesterday. The students from the Gulf have been offered scholarships from the TISOM, while King Hassan will finance the \$20,000 tuition fees of the Moroccan students. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Commercial banks have returned NIS 18 million to customers in the January-April period in a compromise with customers who said the banks made mistakes in calculating interest payments, the Sagy economic consultancy firm reported yesterday. It said 18 businesses have been compensated this year. The customers received 30%-70% of the initial sum they demanded the banks return. *Galit Lipkis Beck*

Bronfmans, Kolbers, Renaissance Fund to invest in Geotek

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

AFFILIATES of the Charles Bronfman family and the Jonathan Kolber family, together with the Renaissance Fund LDC, have agreed in principle to invest between \$45 million and \$50m. in Geotek Communications Inc. (Nasdaq), the company announced yesterday.

The investment, made by Bronfman, the brother of Edgar Bronfman, chairman of Seagram Co., and Kolber, president of the Tel Aviv investment company Claridge Israel Inc., reflects investors' faith in the telecommu-

nications company, Kolber said. The New Jersey-based Geotek is an international company providing integrated voice and data solutions for mobile business users.

The company recently began offering wireless communications services to fleets of commercial vehicles over its FHMA-based networks, in five US markets.

Geotek plans to build networks in over 35 major US markets and was recently awarded a license to build an FHMA network in Canada.

PA to build power plant in Gaza

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

THE Palestinian Energy Authority recently announced it has signed a memorandum of understanding with Delma Power Company to build a power plant in the southern part of Gaza City.

Delma, a California-based firm, will build the \$170 million plant on the "Build, Own, Operate" system.

This means that the power company, aided by the French firm Electricite de France, will finance, design, operate and maintain the electrical power plant facility and then sell the power they produce to PEA under a 20-year power purchase agreement.

The plant, which will be built in two phases and be completed within two years, is expected to provide Gaza with more electrical power at cheaper costs than the Israel Electric Corp. offers.

"The building of this plant is one of the most significant and important projects in Gaza for many reasons," said Dr. Rafiq Malaha, a PEA official and negotiator for the power plant project. "It's the cornerstone for building, industry and development. Let's face it, if you don't have power, you don't have anything."

First Int'l earnings down 16% in quarter

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE First International Bank of Israel, a Sabra Bank, reported a 16.6 percent drop in net earnings for the first quarter, despite a sharp drop in provisions for doubtful debts and a rise in operating and other income.

Net profits fell to NIS 34.4 million from NIS 41.3m. in the corresponding period last year. Net return on equity on an annual basis fell to 8% from 10% in the same period last year and 8.7% for all of 1995.

Management said the drop in net earnings stemmed primarily from the difference between the index for the month and the known index.

The gap had the effect of increasing the first quarter earnings by NIS 2.6m., compared with NIS 12.4m. in the same period last year.

The earnings were also hindered by a change in tax that defines subsidiaries abroad as a long arm of the bank from the beginning of 1995.

This change had the effect of reducing net profits by NIS 4.2m., compared with NIS 3.3m. rise in the same period last year.

In the reported period, earnings from financing operations before provision for doubtful debts fell to NIS 161.1m. from NIS 175.9m.

Provision for doubtful debts were more than halved, to NIS 8.1m. from NIS 17.9m.

Operating and other income increased 5.1% to NIS 91.8m. Operating and other expenses totaled NIS 169.2m., almost unchanged from the first quarter last year.

The bank's total assets grew 8.1% to NIS 26.5 billion from NIS 24.5b.

'Hapoalim, Leumi haven't compensated share scam victims'

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BANK Hapoalim and Bank Leumi have not yet compensated investors for damages caused by the Tsabari and Regev share-manipulation scandal, despite the long period that has elapsed since the banks began exploring losses suffered by customers, attorney Herzl Kaspi said yesterday in letters sent to the banks.

The losses stemmed from the illegal use of the customers' investments by former bank employees.

To strengthen his argument, Kaspi emphasized that Bank Discount has already compensated provident fund investors to cover damages as a result of the illegal use of their investments by former bank employees.

The fund managers were compensated NIS 2.8m. last year.

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ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

ELSCINT LIMITED

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

Haifa, Israel

Notice is hereby given that an Annual General Meeting of Shareholders of Elscint Ltd. (the Company) will be held at the Company's principal executive offices, Mercas Ta'assiyot Mada (Advanced Technology Center), Haifa 31004, Israel, on Tuesday, May 28, 1996 at 3 p.m., for the following purposes:

- Electing nine (9) directors to the Board of Directors of the Company;
- Receiving and considering the Auditors' Report, the Directors' Report and the Consolidated Financial Statements of the Company and its subsidiaries for the year ended December 31, 1994;
- Re-appointing the company's auditors and authorizing the Board of Directors to fix their remuneration;
- Considering and acting upon such other business as may properly come before the Meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Only Shareholders of record at the close of business on November 17, 1995 will be entitled to vote at the Meeting. Shareholders residing in Israel whose shares are deposited with an authorized Israeli agent (bank or broker), and who are interested in voting, are requested to present confirmation of such from the agent, detailing the number of those stocks held in their name which were purchased no later than November 17, 1995.

Official notice of the Meeting and a voting card will be sent to all shareholders of record.

By order of the Board of Directors,

Orna Bar-David
Corporate Secretary

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (6.5-9%)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.625	4.750	5.250
U.S. dollar (\$100,000)	4.125	4.500	4.900
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.750	1.750	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.500	0.500	0.750
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (21.5-9%)

Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rate**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.5255	3.5940	—	3.36	3.6450
German mark	2.1189	2.1911	2.08	2.19	2.1245
French franc	4.3277	5.0372	4.84	5.08	4.9492
Japanese yen (100)	0.6250	0.6251	0.61	0.62	0.6270
Dutch guilder	3.0392	3.0893	2.96	3.14	3.0597
Swiss franc	1.8947	1.9293	1.86	1.96	1.9713
Spanish peseta (100)	2.5772	2.6169	2.33	2.66	2.5998
Swedish krona	0.4604	0.4682	0.47	0.50	0.4828
Norwegian krona	0.4936	0.5016	0.48	0.51	0.4954
Danish krona	0.5495	0.5574	0.53	0.57	0.5303
Finland mark	0.6812	0.7024	0.67	0.72	0.6948
Canadian dollar	2.3775	2.4096	2.33	2.45	2.3999
Australian dollar	2.5814	2.6281	2.53	2.69	2.6022
S. African rand	0.7514	0.7638	0.66	0.77	0.7354
Belgian franc (10)	1.0293	1.0490	1.01	1.07	1.0336
Austrian schilling (10)	3.0108	3.0582	2.96	3.17	3.0214
Italian lire (1000)	2.0226	2.1254	2.05	2.18	2.1021
Jordanian dinar	—	—	4.93	4.84	4.8937
Egyptian pound	—	—	0.92	1.01	1.0480
ECU	3.9854	4.0467	—	—	4.0082
Irish punt	5.0824	5.1944	4.99	5.24	5.0936
Spanish peseta (100)	2.5409	2.5819	2.49	2.62	2.5531

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Municipality of Tel Aviv - Yafa
Tender no. 282/96

SALE OF FREEHOLD AND LEASING RIGHTS

on a plot for the construction of a hotel and commercial areas including an underground car-park between Hayarkon, Herbert Samuel, Zerubavel and Ezra Hasofer Streets in Tel Aviv

The Municipality of Tel Aviv - Yafa is accepting bids for the purchase of freehold and leasing rights on a plot for the construction of a hotel and commercial areas including an underground car-park between Hayarkon, Herbert Samuel, Zerubavel and Ezra Hasofer Streets in Tel Aviv.

More information on the tender as well as the tender documents (the conditions of tender and the tender envelope) may be purchased for NIS 1,500 (non refundable), from the office of Ezra Ubetzron Ltd., 105 Derech Petah Tikva, Tel Aviv, Tel. 03-6910866, Sunday - Thursday, 9 am - 12 noon.

Bids (which may not be less than the shekel equivalent of \$18,000,000 - eighteen million US dollars) plus VAT, in two identical copies (using the form given in Appendix C in the tender conditions), together with the documents (signed by the bidder), should be submitted in a sealed envelope. The number of the tender and the name of the bidder should be marked on the envelope. The documents should be sent by registered mail or delivered by hand to the Municipal Postal Service, Room 1228, 12th floor, Tel Aviv - Yafa Municipality, Kikar Rabin, Tel Aviv, by August 28, 1996, at 3 pm.

Bidders must include guarantees, as detailed in the tender documents as well as documents attesting to their ability to undertake the project and confirmation of proper accounting procedure, as required by law, from the income tax authority, a tax advisor or an accountant.

The municipality does not undertake to accept the highest or any other bid.

Roni Milo
Mayor of Tel Aviv - Yafa

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Dollar's gains against shekel boost shares

STOCK indexes rose for a third straight day yesterday as the dollar gained again against the shekel, which is seen as helping boost exporters' profits.

The Maof index went up 0.49 percent to 215.93, and the Two-Sided Index rose 0.63% to 204.88.

Of 993 issues trading across the exchange, 13 shares rose for every five that fell.

Some NIS 6.5 million worth of shares traded, NIS 6.6m. above yesterday's level and about NIS 5m. below the month's average trading level.

"Stocks are gaining as the dollar strengthens," it happened yesterday as well," said Eitan Sharkman, a fund manager at Ramat Gan-based investment firm Zeler Aviglan.

The most active share on the exchange, Teva Pharmaceuticals Ltd., rose 0.75 percent. The shares rose following gains on Teva's American Depository Receipts, which rose to 46 15/16 Monday from 46 1/4 Friday.

Export-oriented chemical companies with gains included Makhteshim Chemical Works Ltd., which rose 1%; and Agan Chemical Manufacturers Ltd., which increased 1.75%.

Agan, a Makhteshim subsidiary, said first-quarter net income was virtually unchanged from the same period last year, rising to NIS 35.9m. from NIS 35.3m.

Other gaining shares included Maof Iodex-listed investment company Africa Israel Ltd., which rose 4% after subsidiary Africa Israel Hotels said first-quarter net income went up to NIS 1.7m. from NIS 1.4m. in the

parallel quarter last year. Listed on the Mishtanum Index, Africa Israel Hotels rose 7.75%. Also gaining on that index, Mofet Israel Technology Fund Ltd. went up for a second day, jumping 9.75%.

Sharkman said the company gained amid news reports it would profit from share sales in companies in which it invests. Mofet "can't confirm" news reports that Scorpio Communications Ltd. of which it is a shareholder, would sell shares in New York, said Dan Halperin, Mofet's chairman of the board, in a telephone interview.

Mofet had previously said Orckit Communications Ltd., in which it also owns a stake, may sell shares in New York. Declining shares on the Maof Index included First International Bank of Israel Ltd., which fell 0.75% after it said first-quarter net income fell 16.7% from the quarter a year.

A spokeswoman for the bank attributed the decline to "accounting differences" and predicted all of Israel's banks would be affected. First International was the first major local bank to announce first quarter results. The bank, the country's fifth-largest in terms of assets, with \$7.3 billion in assets in 1994, said net income fell to NIS 34.4m. from NIS 41.3m. in the first quarter of 1995. Other declining shares included Koor Industries Ltd., which produces about 7% percent of Israel's total industrial output. Koor's shares in Tel Aviv fell 0.75%.

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Dollar breaks through 1.54 mark barrier, German shares surge

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - The dollar broke through 1.54 marks yesterday to trade at its strongest level since January 1995, after comments by a German central bank official caught the market by surprise and sent the mark lower across the board.

Bundesbank Governor Hans Eichel's comments, that the German economy would benefit if the dollar rose by a few pennings and there was considerable room to lower interest rates, helped the dollar escape from an extremely narrow trading range that had gripped it during the European morning.

Analysts said 1.54 marks was an important psychological and technical barrier and the rally above it was extremely bullish. Analysts added the mark looked set to return to centage in the foreign exchange market as doubts over the progress of Europe's economic and monetary union (EMU) gather momentum.

"The move above 1.54 marks looks sustainable since the dollar seems to have got over a period of short-term weakness," said Stuart Thomson, chief economist at Nikko Europe in London. Prior to the dollar rally the currency markets had been trading water ahead of a meeting later yesterday of the US interest rate-setting Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC).

Economists surveyed by Reuters all predicted that the Federal Funds target rate would be left unchanged at 5.25 percent. The Fed last changed the rate in January, when it cut 25 basis points

left interest rates unchanged. On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average lost 12.56 points to close at 5,736.26, after meandering higher and lower through the session. Trading was restrained as the Federal Reserve, as expected, The Currency Cross-Rates were unavailable last night.

Mac. TA, Rishon Lezion advance to State Cup Final

DEREK FATTAL

OVER 20,000 supporters turned the compact Bloomfield Stadium into a cauldron of noise and color yesterday afternoon for the State Cup semifinal double bill, and witnessed Maccabi Tel Aviv and Ironi Rishon Lezion fight their way through to a place next week's final.

Against a backdrop of feverish noise and vibrant color that enveloped the compact Bloomfield Stadium, the Tel Avivans once again foiled arch-rivals Maccabi Haifa.

Dror Kashtan's men came back from a 1-0 deficit to end up 2-1 winners, and so keep themselves right on target for an historic seventh League and Cup double.

Rishon's 4-1 victory over Bnei Yehuda in the first game is a personal triumph for coach Viko Hadad who also steered Hapoel Haifa into last year's final.

Hadad's current club will appear in its first State Cup final for 50 years, having last competed in the 1946 contest against Maccabi Tel Aviv, when the side emerged beaten finalists.

Maccabi Haifa fans will have to console themselves with a place in the UEFA Cup, while Rishon supporters go into the final knowing that whatever the result, their team will be Israel's representatives in next season's European Cup Winners Cup.

Both matches were brimming with incident, as Rishon grabbed two goals in injury time. The Tel Aviv-Haifa contest saw the dismissal of Haifa's Eyal Berkowitz for ungentlemanly conduct against Itzhak Zohar, followed by Zohar's own dismissal for hurling a plastic bottle into the crowd in the game's final minutes.

Mac Tel Aviv 2, Mac Haifa 1. The game started at manic

speed, and plenty of rough challenges, compelling referee Souheil David to lay down the law by booking Tel Aviv's Avi Nimni and Haifa's Haim Revivo early in the proceedings.

Tel Aviv Eli Driks put his tall physique to good use in the Haifa area, while Revivo threatened at the other end with a couple of shots that brought Alexander Obarov into action in the Tel Aviv goal.

Revivo edged his side ahead in the 31st minute spurting onto a deliciously weighted diagonal pass from Berkowitz that carved through the Tel Aviv defense. Revivo beat Amit Levy to the ball and started it out of Obarov's reach into goal.

Nir Klinger should have equalized in the 39th minute from a near play-back of the Revivo goal but hit the side netting. Three minutes later, Klinger made amends heading down an Amir Shelach cross into the net past Haifa's Rafi Cohen, with no Haifa defender close enough to even challenge.

Zohar hit the winner in the 77th minute. A poor clearance came to him on the edge of the box. His shot took a sharp deflection off Ronny Levy's back and with Cohen misfooted, went unimpeded into goal.

Haifa's cause was all but lost when Eyal Berkowitz got into an altercation with Zohar in the 82nd minute. David had no choice but to flash the red card after Berkowitz tugged at Zohar's shorts in a most unsportsmanlike fashion.

Two minutes before time it was Zohar's turn to see red. As he motioned to take a corner a number of plastic bottles were thrown

from the crowd and he responded to the provocation. By then the Tel Avivans were well on their way to the final and their supporters were on cloud nine.

Bnei Yehuda 1, R Lezion 4. This was not quite the walkover the match result suggests. Bnei Yehuda's attack had the better of the early sparring but was let down by second-rate defensive work that conceded two goals in five minutes.

The first blow came in the 24th minute when a looping corner wound its way to Rishon's Moshe Sabag. Sabag was left as a bird and was able to chest the ball down before choosing his spot past Benny Ginsburg.

Five minutes later and from much the same position, Nir Shikva was left completely unattended and volleyed in Rishon's second goal with the Bnei Yehuda defense doing little more than staring helplessly.

The Tel Aviv side rallied in the second half causing considerable discomfort in the Rishon ranks.

After two consecutive corners the breakthrough finally came for Bnei Yehuda in the 55th minute when Jozef Dura let loose a vicious shot from the edge of the area leaving Rishon goalkeeper Savit Elimelech no chance of stopping the ball.

Bnei Yehuda paid the price for all-out attack when substitute Vladimir Greshnaye capitalized on a speedy break for Rishon just into injury time. Nir Sevilla almost replied with a headed goal, but hit the bar on the next attack.

The final piece in the puzzle was added by Sharon Marziano a minute later who danced around the stretched Bnei Yehuda defense before hammering the ball home for Rishon's fourth goal.

SEATTLE (AP) - The Seattle SuperSonics got all they could handle from Utah for 47 1/2 minutes. Then the Jazz decided to stand around for 20 seconds, and the Sonics walked away with a 2-0 lead in the Western Conference finals.

Defeat Schrempf made two foul shots with 1.6 seconds left to lock up Seattle's 91-87 victory Monday night after Utah let the



Sonics run out most of the clock in the final half-minute of the game.

It provided a strange finish to a closely fought game that featured a remarkable third quarter by Karl Malone, a strong fourth quarter by Gary Payton and a go-ahead basket by Shawn Kemp after he was hampered by foul trouble most of the night.

The final standing-around sequence was set up after Kemp put Seattle ahead 89-87 on a hanging shot in the lane with 38.8 seconds left. John Stockton dribbled into a double-team at the other end and left his feet, then threw a weak, off-balance cross-court pass that was intercepted by Kemp.

"I just read the play, stayed in between them, got a hand on the ball and it worked out fine," Kemp said. When the Sonics got the ball



ROAD BLOCK - Utah's John Stockton runs into Seattle's Sam Perkins.

upcourt, the Jazz stayed back on defense rather than foul intentionally and sent Seattle to the line despite the four-second differential between the shot clock and the game clock.

Schrempf missed from the corner with the game clock ticking down to six seconds. The shot was

short and hit the rim, bouncing out of bounds off Jeff Hornacek's hand. Schrempf was fouled on the inbound pass, and he sank the two free throws to lock up the win.

Payton led Seattle with 18 points, Schrempf had 17, and Kemp and Sam Perkins finished

with 15 each. Malone led Utah with 32 points, including 18 in the third quarter, and Hornacek had 22.

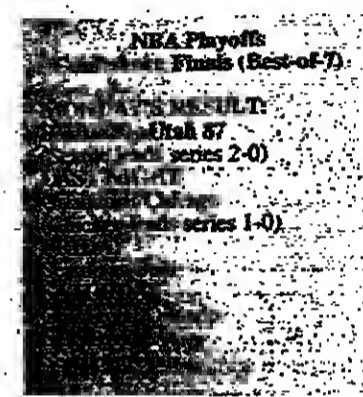
Payton was the only member of the Sonics to score from the field during an span of 6:21 beginning with Kemp's fastbreak dunk with 9:09 left and ending with Kemp's jump hook with 1:12 left that put Seattle ahead 87-85.

Antoine Carr scored from in close over two defenders with 57 seconds left to tie the game again, but that was Utah's last shot from the field.

The Jazz lost despite outrebounding Seattle 34-28, having two fewer turnovers and a 17-8 edge on fastbreak points. Part of it came down to not being able to draw a sixth foul on Kemp, who played the final 10:50 with five fouls.

Kemp was whistled for four fouls in the first half and picked up his fifth after playing just 17 seconds of the third quarter. Seattle led 61-59 at the time, but Utah closed the quarter with an 18-5 run to lead 73-65 heading into the fourth.

"The thing you do in this position is sit on the bench and watch their offense," Kemp said. "Then you don't get silly fouls. I kept my patience and let the game come to me."



NEBA Playoff Finals (Best-of-7) Game 1: Utah 87, Seattle 85. Game 2: Utah 87, Seattle 85. Game 3: Utah 87, Seattle 85. Game 4: Utah 87, Seattle 85. Game 5: Utah 87, Seattle 85. Game 6: Utah 87, Seattle 85. Game 7: Utah 87, Seattle 85.

Juventus, Ajax to clash in Champions Cup tonight

ROME (AP) - Pre-match posturing ahead of the Champions Cup final began Monday as Juventus of Turin coach Marcello Lippi confirmed his club's practices this week would be closed.

Juventus arrived at Rome's Leonardo da Vinci airport Monday morning, greeted by dozens of fans wearing club scarves and hats. Ajax arrived in the Italian capital later in the day.

The teams play at Olympic Stadium tonight, with Ajax aiming for its second straight Champions Cup title and fifth overall. Juve wants to add to its 1985 triumph.

The Dutch will hold at least one open practice, but Lippi's squad will train behind closed doors, to avoid what the coach termed "too much pressure."

He praised his opponent, whose games Juventus has analyzed with the help of hours of videotape.

"Ajax is a formidable group. Their overall strength worries me," Lippi said. He reserved particular praise for the Dutch side's tremendous ball-control.

"Patience is Ajax's top virtue," Lippi said. "The team maintains continuous possession until there's an opening. Chasing the ball for 90 minutes is not easy" for its opponents.

"This will be like a chess match," said Gianluca Vialli, Juve's captain and most in-form player of late. "We hope to take them out of their plan and make them improvise a bit."

Ajax captain Danny Blind is the player to watch, according to Vialli. "He's fundamental to them, with his charisma and tactics," the former Italian international said. "He's the last line of defense and the first to go on attack."

Penguins even the score with Panthers

PITTSBURGH (AP) - The Pittsburgh Penguins changed goaltenders and game plans, shook off Mario Lemieux's illness and held on to beat the Florida Panthers 3-2 Monday night to even the NHL Eastern Conference finals.

Lemieux missed 10 minutes with an undisclosed sickness, returned to a thunderous ovation, then set up one goal and scored another as the Penguins rebounded from Florida's convincing 5-1 victory in Game 1.

Lemieux and Jaromir Jagr, held scoreless in the same game for only the fourth time Saturday, finally beat Panthers playoff star John Vanbiesbrouck for goals as Pittsburgh opened leads of 2-0 and 3-1.

Sergei Zubov and Jagr, awakened Pittsburgh's slumping power play with second-period goals as the Penguins, in danger of falling behind 2-0 in the series, frantically pressed to get the early lead even without Lemieux.

The gamble to force Florida out of its almost impenetrable defense by scoring the first goal paid off, and so did coach Ed Johnston's unexpected decision to start Tom Barrasso, who hadn't played in nearly a month.

Barrasso, an almost forgotten man since being replaced by Ken Wregget in the Penguins' momentum-shifting four-overtime victory over Washington in the first round, shut out Florida for two periods before Ray Sheppard and Bill Lindsay scored in the third.

off this season before Monday, stopped 30 shots in his first start since April 24.

Barrasso, only 1-2 in this play-

Robson to Barcelona

MADRID (Reuters) - Former England manager Bobby Robson arrived in Barcelona yesterday to sign a two-year contract to become coach of Barcelona whose offer he described as "too good to refuse."

"It's a great opportunity Barcelona is offering me and I hope to return the team to victory," Robson told crowds of reporters and fans gathered at the city's airport.

Robson led Porto to the Portuguese league title this season. Barcelona announced on Saturday they were dismissing Dutch coach Johan Cruyff following a string of poor results.

In other news, England, which has been training on a controversial Beijing pitch, said the battered turf would be adequate for tomorrow's friendly against China.

England team chief Terry Venables said an emergency repairs had improved the surface since he threatened earlier this month to cancel the game because of the poor state of the weather-damaged turf at Beijing's Workers' Stadium.

Venables said after the light training session that China would be tough opponents in what he sees as a vital part of England's run-up to next month's European championship finals. England has a second match against Hong Kong on Sunday.

Venables learned on Tuesday that defender Mark Wright had been forced to pull out of Euro 96 by the knee injury he sustained last Saturday in England's 3-0 win over Hungary.

Venables said the 32-year-old defender's replacement in the squad, Steve Howey, appeared in good shape at the afternoon training session. England will face a Chinese side smirking from a 2-1 defeat by Italian side Lazio last week but Venables cautioned against over-confidence.

"They are very enthusiastic, to say the least. They'll come up very fast," he said. "They'll be a hard game for us but that's what we need." The Chinese team are guaranteed raucous support from a capacity 70,000 Beijing crowd and may be further spurred by a foreign company's promise of free mobile phones if they win.

"We're expecting a difficult game," England striker Les Ferdinand said.

Butler undergoes cancer surgery

ATLANTA (AP) - Brett Butler of the Los Angeles Dodgers has good prospects for recovery, his surgeon said today after three hours of cancer surgery at Emory University Hospital.

Dr. William Grist said he removed a cancerous lymph node - enlarged to about the size of a man's thumb - and other lymph nodes from the right side of Butler's neck. He also removed the remaining tissue at the base of Butler's cancerous right tonsil, which was removed earlier.

Grist said he believes all the cancerous tissue was removed and Butler's prospects for a full recovery are good. Seventy percent of patients with this type of cancer make a full recovery, Grist said.

A malignant tumor was discovered and removed when Butler, 35, underwent a tonsillectomy May 3 at a hospital near his home in Duluth, northeast of Atlanta. Today's surgery was to remove any remaining cancer. In two to three weeks, Butler is to begin radiation treatments.

MONDAY'S NL RESULTS: Atlanta 18, Chicago 1 Florida 5, Cincinnati 3 St. Louis 5, Houston 3 Colorado 10, Pittsburgh 7 New York 7, Los Angeles 1 San Francisco 9, Montreal 6

MONDAY'S AL RESULTS: Boston 16, Oakland 4 Milwaukee 3, Minnesota 2 Kansas City 5, Toronto 4 Baltimore 13, California 1

Joseph Hoffman, Sports Editor

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Tel Aviv

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alestinian journalists boycott a meeting

CRITIC'S CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

IT'S Broadway night in Jerusalem: The Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra presents an evening of excerpts from West Side Story, Oliver, My Fair Lady and Man of La Mancha.



The Discovery Channel will feature Liat Dror and Nir Ben-Gal's 'Tinta Umri' ("You Are My Life").

THE Abu Ghosh Vocal Music Festival takes place tomorrow through Saturday featuring a varied program of 13 choral concerts.

AND the Israel Festival also opens Saturday with several music programs including Paganini at the Targ Center in Ein Kerem (11 a.m.).

DANCE

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

LOCAL dance buffs can enjoy the first ever broadcast of a local dance company on the Discovery Channel with Liat Dror and Nir Ben-Gal's haunting 'Tinta Umri' ("You Are My Life").

performer is Cornelius Ophof as the villainous Baron Scarpia. Saturday (00.30) on the Discovery Channel.

TELEVISION

TOM GROSS

THE suspense will soon be over for all those who have become hooked on 'Pride and Prejudice' over the last five Friday evenings.

Will Mr. Darcy's pride and Miss Elizabeth Bennet's prejudice against him finally be put to rest? The episode, in which we find out whether the two are destined for each other, received record ratings for a television drama when it aired in Britain last year.

For those of you worried that you may suffer withdrawal symptoms when the series comes to an end, you needn't despair. There's plenty more of the subtle social nuances, grand country houses and rolling green hills of England in store.

TELEVISION

CHANNEL 1

6:30 News in Arabic 6:45 Exercise Hour 7:00 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Evolution 8:30 Arithmetic 8:50 States of the Yishuv 9:15 English 9:25 For young children 9:50 Flight Here 10:00 Morning Conversations r

CHANNEL 1

15:31 Friends of Shush 15:50 Timeless land 16:00 Heartbreak High 16:45 Zap to comics 16:59 A New Evening 17:34 Zap to current affairs

ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:30 Family Affairs 18:50 Election Broadcasts 19:00 News in Arabic

HEBREW PROGRAMS

19:30 Every Evening with Merav Michael 20:00 Mabat News 20:40 Election broadcasts 21:10 No Man's Land - communications magazine, broadcast live and hosted by Ram Evron

CHANNEL 2

13:00 Top Cat 13:30 Power Rangers 14:00 Star Trek 15:00 My Sea - adventure series 15:30 Dave's World 16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful 17:00 News magazine with Rafi Reshet 17:30 Sport TV 18:00

WHERE TO GO

IS28.08 per line, including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs NIS520.85 per line, including VAT, per month.

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TEL AVIV

Museums: TEL AVIV MUSEUM. Micha Ullman, Drawings 1994-5 New Horizons: Sculpture 1994-5 The Last War, Photographs 1994-5

HAIFA

WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, dial 04-8374253.

TELEVISION

CHANNEL 1

00:00 News 00:05 NYPD continued 00:20 Big Eyes - Israeli movie about 8 Tel Aviv basketball coach, starring Uri Zohar, Ark Einstein.

JORDAN TV

15:00 The Flintstones 15:30 Dinosaurs 15:55 The New Three Stooges 16:00 Billy Nye the Science Guy 16:30 Alex Max 17:00 French Programs 19:35 Evening Shede 20:00 Computer Chronicles 20:30

MIDDLE EAST TV

14:00 The 700 Club 14:30 Abduction (1975) - a millionaire's daughter is held for ransom. Starring Gregory Rozakis and Judith Marie-Bergan. (80 mins.) 16:05 Another Life

CABLE

ITV 3 (33)

17:00 Cartoons 17:30 Contemporary People 18:30 Discussion in Arabic 19:00 News in Arabic 19:30 We are Here - Russian language documentary

ETV 2 (23)

15:30 Sugar and Spice 16:00 With an Investigative eye 16:40 Mathematics 17:00 Great Discoveries 17:30 Documentary on Isamu Naguchi 18:30 Family Relations 19:00 Everything's Open 19:30 A Matter of Time 20:00 A New Evening (with Russian subtitles)

FAMILY CHANNEL (3)

6:00 Falcon Crest (pt) 9:00 One Life to Live (pt) 9:45 The Young and the Restless (pt) 10:30 Second Time Around 10:55 WKRP in Cincinnati 11:25 Perla Negra (pt) 12:10

MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

10:30 Cross Creek (1983) (pt) 12:30 The Kennel Murder Case (1933) - Philo Vance proves that a supposed suicide is actually a murder.

TELEVISION

CHANNEL 5

13:50 Tommy Trickster (1990) - two young stamp collectors compete to find a valuable collection (pt) 15:35 Concert for Bangladesh (1972) - Bob Dylan, George Harrison, Ringo Starr, Eric Clapton and many more (94 mins.) (pt) 17:15 Miles from Home (1988) (pt) 19:05 Princess of the Moon (1987, Japanese) - adaptation of ancient Japanese legend (pt) 21:00 White Mile (1994) - the president of an advertising agent takes his senior executives rafting. With Alan Alda and Peter Gallagher. (99 mins.)

CHILDREN (8)

6:30 Cartoons 8:05 Popcornia (pt) 8:30 Spiderman (pt) 9:05 Alice in Wonderland 9:35 Nils Holgerson (pt) 10:05 Hangin' with Mr. Cooper (pt) 10:35 Loony Tunes (pt) 11:00 Saved by the Bell (pt) 11:30 Little University - Wild Nature (pt) 12:00 Hugo (pt) 12:45 Alvin and the Chipmunks (pt) 13:00 Surprise Garden 13:35 Ketchup Vampires 14:00 Blinky Bill 14:35 Alice in Wonderland (pt) 15:05 Nils Holgerson 15:35 Weird Love 16:10 Loony Tunes 18:30 Saved by the Bell 17:05 Beakman's World 17:30 Hugo 18:15 Alvin and the Chipmunks 18:35 Popcornia (pt) 19:00 Spiderman (pt) 19:30 Three's Company 20:00 Married with Children 20:25 Roseanne 20:50 The Ren and Stimpy Show 21:05 Big Brother Jake 21:30 Cheers

SECOND SHOWING (8)

22:00 The Romantic Englishwoman (1975) - The provincial wife of a successful writer falls in love with a mysterious young man her husband brings home. With Glenda Jackson, Michael Caine and Helmut Berger. Directed by Joseph Losey. (111 mins.) 23:55 Say Amen Somebody

DISCOVERY (8)

6:00 Open University 12:00 National Geographic Explorer (pt) 13:00 Combat at Sea (pt) 14:00 Open University 16:00 National Geographic Explorer (pt) 17:00 Combat at Sea (pt) 18:00 Open University 20:00 The Wild South 21:00 Messages in Stone 22:00 Future Quest 22:30 Ancient Warriors 23:00 The Wild South (pt) 23:50 Open University (pt)

SUPER CHANNEL

6:00 The Selina Scott Show 7:00 NBC News 7:30 ITN News 8:00 Today 10:00 Supershop 11:00 European Money Wheel 16:00 Morning Report from Wall Street - five 17:00 US Money Wheel 18:30 FT Business Tonight 19:00 ITN News 19:30 Russia Now 20:00 Europe 2000 20:30 The Selina Scott Show 21:30 Dafeline 22:30 ITN News 23:00 PGA Golf 00:00 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno 1:00 Late Night with Conan O'Brien 2:00 Later with Greg Kinnear

STAR PLUS

6:00 Aerobics 6:30 Nenny and the Professor 7:00 Mr. Belvedere 7:30 Fish Dishes 8:00 El TV 8:30 Gabrielle 9:30 Santa Barbara 10:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 11:30 Oprah Winfrey 12:00 Remington Steele 13:00 Fish Dishes 13:30 El TV 14:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 14:30 The New Adventures

CINEMA

4:30, 7, 9:15 * Mighty Aphrodite 9:15 * Toy Story (Hebrew dialogue) 5 * GIL THE BIRDGE@EYE for an Eye 5, 7:30, 10 * Toy Story (English dialogue) 7

6:00 Cross Creek (1983) (pt) 12:30 The Kennel Murder Case (1933) - Philo Vance proves that a supposed suicide is actually a murder. With William Powell and Mary Astor. Directed by Michael Curtiz (72 mins.)

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CINEMA

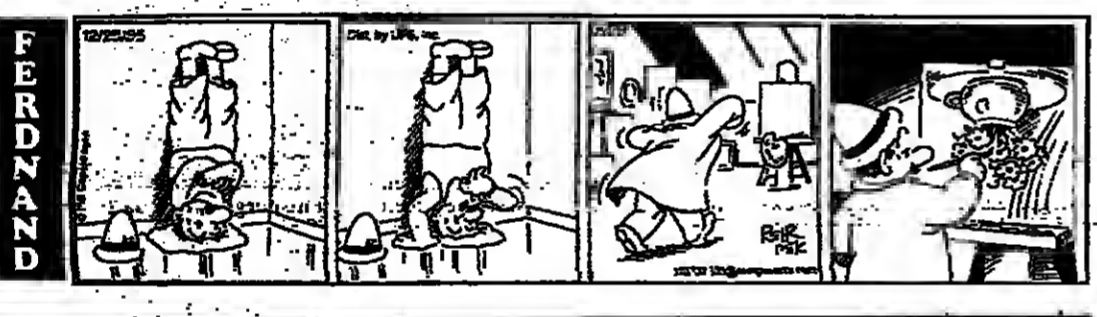
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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 Speeches the underworld boss runs through (10) 6 Perch for a singer (4) 10 Sterile lance must be used (5) 11 The eccentric with a past to play? (9) 12 The absorbing matter of income (8) 13 Article about supporting constructive wear (5) 15 A simple worker for firm (7) 17 Painter keeping odious old woman within call (7) 19 Went uncertainly to cleric - went in advance (7) 21 Small change Rex required in a jacket (7) 22 Plants making a show in the Channel Isles (5) 24 A picture of game bagged (8) 27 The gallant may reveal another aspect after 51 (4-5) 28 Dealing with the morning's paper (5) 29 Harrow playboy (4) 30 Offend stranger possibly with some craft (10) DOWN 1 Avoid nothing (4) 2 Grim drawback in getting behind (9) 3 Light-weight animal (5) 4 Figure the child among others is best off (7) 5 Plastic lace, it's stretchable (7) 7 A measure taken over the queen's post (5) 8 Assassins with money framed by persons unknown (10) 9 Hard-top vehicle set above a soft one (8) 14 Fussy individual (10) 16 None left unharmed? (3,5) 18 A charge on sports in Alaska (9) 20 It's loss of hope divides pairs in part (7) 21 Tough guy's wrangle over colour (7) 23 Criminal staff (5) 25 Youth's grip's broken (5) 26 Crawlers like an extra note added (4)

SOLUTIONS

Yesterday's Quick Solution ACROSS: 5 France, 8 Einstein, 9 Scott, 18 Gharcray, 11 Ashai, 24 App, 18 Chalk, 17 Awaiting, 18 Lex, 20 Anny, 24 Stop over, 26 China, 28 Insulated, 27 Umbra. DOWN: 1 Merge, 2 Gnomes, 3 Story, 4 Diana, 6 Escending, 7 Netting, 12 Chin-chin, 12 Clarinet, 14 All, 15 Fax, 18 Arctic, 21 Spill, 24 Ovals, 28 Feids.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 Small coin (5) 4 Taut (5) 10 Farm vehicle (7) 11 Commerce (5) 12 Thespian (5) 13 Borne (7) 15 State (4) 17 Fashion (5) 19 Normal (5) 22 Title (4) 25 Below (7) 27 Creep (5) 29 Wait upon (5) 30 Impressive (7) 31 Friendship (5) 32 Pier (5) DOWN 2 Precise (5) 3 Ordinary (7) 5 Consumer (5) 6 Endurance (7) 7 Thieve (5) 8 Couple (5) 9 Prepared (5) 14 Type of Lily (4) 16 Opening (4) 18 Fit of temper (7) 20 Hides (7) 21 Corpulent (5) 23 In front (5) 24 Change (5) 26 Representative (5) 28 Approximately (5)

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Police investigating senior Sheba doctors

EVELYN GORDON

A POLICE investigation has been ordered against five senior doctors at Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer, including former Health Ministry director-general Mordechai Shani, Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair confirmed yesterday.

Ben-Yair said that while he normally does not confirm such reports at such an early stage in the process, he felt it necessary to do so because of errors that appeared in the Hebrew press earlier this week.

He said he has asked the police to investigate two separate affairs. The first involves a hospital research fund managed, among others, by hospital director Shani and his deputy, Boleslav Goldman. The two signed a deal with

the Simudan investment company to make certain investments on behalf of the fund. According to Ben-Yair's office, however, there are suspicions the deal involved fraud and breach of trust on Shani's part, and perhaps on the part of others as well.

The second affair involves a conflict of interest by Goldman, Shlomo Mashiah, Yehoshua Dor, and David Lev-Ran. The four were involved in a private *in vitro* fertilization clinic run out of Assuta, a private hospital. According to Ben-Yair's office, there are suspicions that the four improperly tried to persuade patients to use this clinic rather than Sheba's services.

Such activity could constitute fraud and breach of trust.

Ben-Yair stressed, however, that these are merely suspicions. He ordered the police investigation only two weeks ago, and only after it is finished will he be able to decide whether there is enough evidence to justify an indictment.

Shani has already been involved in one unsavory affair, which resulted in Ben-Yair ordering him to resign as director-general of the Health Ministry. Ben-Yair ruled that Shani was unfit to hold a senior civil service post, having violated civil service regulations by setting up a private medical services company in Hungary while he was director-general of Sheba.

Police seek three in connection with murder

RAINE MARCUS

REHOVOT police have launched a search for three people, two of them wanted in connection with the murder of Ida Bleichman, 72, whose decaying body was found in her apartment Monday night.

Her woman's daughter, Shlomit Bleichman, 49, her boyfriend Amiram Hochberg, 50, and the deceased's grandson, Itai, 12, have been missing from their homes for nearly a week. Airport and port police have been alerted.

Ida Bleichman had been shot to death and her body rolled up in a carpet. A pathologist determined she had been dead for around five days.

Shlomit Bleichman had been employed at Rehovot's Weizman Institute and her fellow workers contacted police because she had not turned up for work since last Wednesday.

Police arrived at Ida Bleichman's apartment, broke in, and found the body.

From Shlomit Bleichman's brother, who lives in the US, detectives learned that the mother and daughter had been at odds over Shlomit's relationship with Hochberg, the father of Itai.

Hochberg is believed to be in possession of a licensed pistol, similar to the one which killed the victim. Bleichman owns a red Renault Clio which has not yet been found.

Police discovered yesterday that on May 14, Hochberg rented a white GMC Vandura, license plates 27-953-18, which was not returned to the rental agency. The public is also requested to be on the lookout for the vehicle, and to report it to police immediately.

Police have called for help in tracing the three, and anyone who may have information on their whereabouts, or can help in any way, should contact their local police station, or the Rehovot station at 08-9371431.

WEATHER

Forecast: Fair, warmer in the hills and inland regions.

Ben-Eliezer should have been indicted - Ben-Porat

EVELYN GORDON

STATE Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat yesterday stuck by her statement that Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer should have been indicted, but said she had not intended to publicly criticize Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair on the matter.

Ben-Porat had recommended that Ben-Yair order a police investigation of Ben-Eliezer a few years ago, after finding that Ben-Eliezer had allocated ministry funds largely to towns with Labor Party mayors, while neglecting those with Likud mayors.

Ben-Yair ordered an investigation, but decided earlier this year not to press charges because there was no evidence that Ben-Eliezer knew he was committing a crime and he had not benefited personally.

At closed sessions of the Knesset State Control Committee both last week and this week, Ben-Porat said she disagreed with this decision. Yesterday, Ben-Yair reacted sharply to this, saying Ben-Porat should stick to state control and not express opinions about matters that were his prerogative.

"I heard the radio [yesterday] morning and I couldn't believe my ears," Ben-Porat later told the State Control Committee in an open meeting. "I said what I said only to the MKs... I would never come out against him in the press."

"He said what he did in a fashion which I didn't like very much, but the content was correct," she added. "He does his job, and I do mine."

Ben-Porat said she raised the issue during the closed meeting while explaining her recent decision to ask Ben-Yair to open a criminal investigation against

Transportation Minister Yisrael Kessar, who also gave preference to Labor-led towns when allocating ministry funds.

The knowledge that Ben-Yair would not indict Ben-Eliezer, whose crimes were even more severe, initially made her think there was no point in asking him to do anything about Kessar, she explained, since the chances were "almost zero" that he would do so.

"But I, in his place, would have decided otherwise [regarding Ben-Eliezer]," she said. "So I thought that I should do my part."

The MKs, however, lashed out angrily at Ben-Yair. Dan Tichon (Likud), who said he had leaked Ben-Porat's opinion to the press because he considered it important, demanded that Ben-Yair be summoned to explain both his decision and his strong language against Ben-Porat.

"I don't understand how he could accept all the report's findings, and then reach the decision [not to indict]," Tichon said. "And the committee cannot ignore it when he uses expressions [against the comptroller] that are more appropriate to the yellow press."

Committee chairman David Magen (Likud) responded that he would summon Ben-Yair, though the attorney-general has refused such summonses in the past - something which Magen termed "blatant noncooperation with the institutions of state control."

"The committee's cumulative experience... has been that even when there is a suspicion of criminal activity, [Ben-Yair] does not pursue the issue to the end," he continued. "And it is the comptroller's right to express her opinion in a closed meeting."



'The Destruction of Jerusalem' by Nicholas Poussin, based on the depictions on the Arch of Titus in Rome, is one of 85 masterpieces from the Vienna Museum, including works by Titian and Rubens, going on display at the Israel Museum next Tuesday. The museum agreed to lend the paintings as a present to Vienna-born Teddy Kollek for his 85th birthday.

Students end strike

BATSHEVA TSUR

UNIVERSITY students decided to end their strike yesterday and have their representatives return to the Maltz Committee, which is discussing tuition fees.

The decision not to resume the open-ended strike resulted from a formula, worked out by representatives of the Treasury and the National Union of Israeli Students, whereby the Treasury agreed not to increase fees beyond seasonal adjustments to the cost of living index. In addition, the Finance Ministry said it would provide additional assistance to students in the form of loans and grants.

Treasury officials also agreed to support the students' demand that all universities provide the same basket of services at the same fixed price, union spokeswoman Lilach Nebemias said.

"This is a significant improvement on the part of the Treasury and we are therefore ending our struggle," she said.

The students said, however, that they are maintaining the option of demanding that tuition fees be lowered on the grounds that Israeli students pay relatively more than their European counterparts and that the fees are high in relation to the country's GNP.

Duma official to Bronfman: No plans to limit aliya

BATSHEVA TSUR and MARILYN HENRY

THE deputy chairman of the Duma, Russia's parliament, has written to World Jewish Congress head Edgar Bronfman expressing the hope that the Jewish Agency will soon receive accreditation again in Russia and saying there are no plans to limit aliya.

In a letter Bronfman received yesterday, deputy chairman Mikhail Yurayev says that he recently spoke to the Russian justice minister on the subject. The accreditation granted by the Justice Ministry in Russia was revoked at the beginning of last month for what were described as "breaches of the law" by the agency.

The closing of Jewish Agency offices was "by no means a first step to limit Jewish emigration from Russia," sources quoted the two-page letter as saying, adding

that there was never any intent to "harass Jewish emigration."

Yurayev wrote to Bronfman that if the agency fulfills all the bureaucratic requirements of the new law its offices in Russia can reopen.

"I spoke to the justice minister and received his assurance that the entire matter will be concluded as speedily as possible," Yurayev wrote.

Earlier, Bronfman had written to Yurayev requesting his intervention, at the behest of Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg, the agency spokesman said. He said Burg informed Prime Minister Shimon Peres yesterday of the contents of the letter,

which Bronfman said was "friendly" and "positive."

Yurayev also suggested to Bronfman that "it would be a friendly gesture" if the US annulled the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. That legislation, from 1975, made US trade with the former USSR contingent on the free exit of Jews from the Soviet Union. Yurayev said it was "ridiculous" that Russia remained on the list of countries restricted by the amendment because it now permits the free exodus of its Jewish population. Removing it from the list "would have a positive impact on public opinion in Russia," sources quoted the letter as saying.

Burg said yesterday in response that the request would be given serious consideration once the accreditation problem is solved.

Police: Indict IMI officials

POLICE have recommended that six IMI executives be indicted for negligence resulting in the deaths of two employees in an explosion at the company's Nof Yam plant in 1992.

Forty-seven employees were injured in the blast and an estimated \$20 million worth of damage was done to the factory. Millions of shekels in damages were also paid to the families of those killed and injured and to area residents.

Some two months after the blast, Tel Aviv police investigating if negligence was a factor in the deaths decided not to recommend indictments of the six to the district attorney.

However, since then police have received additional complaints indicating negligence. In addition, the results of an inquiry committee formed to investigate the incident warranted recommendations for indicting the six, who include former managing director Gahi Komissar. The Tel Aviv District Attorney's Office is still weighing whether to press charges based on the new information.

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Reservations: 03-6903344 or any travel agent

Panel threatens to close Israel Building Center

If the Housing Ministry does not shut down the Israel Building Center, the Knesset State Control Committee will initiate legislation to do so, committee chairman David Magen (Likud) threatened yesterday.

The most recent State Comptroller's Report found that the center's activity decreased sharply from 1990-94, while its deficit shot up. In particular, the center's income fell a whopping 60 percent between 1993-94.

Furthermore, the report said, it is not clear that the center is serving any useful purpose.

Center director-general Yael Eran objected, insisting that the center's recovery plan was exceeding expectations. Evelyn Gordon

Police spokesman Adi Gonen responded that while the new restrictions are more severe than those imposed on other public bodies, the police consider it of paramount importance for the force to be above all political activity, and therefore, special restrictions are justified.

AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Low	High
Amman	18	28
Beirut	18	28
Cairo	18	28
Jerusalem	18	28
London	18	28
Los Angeles	18	28
Madrid	18	28
Mexico City	18	28
New York	18	28
Paris	18	28
Rome	18	28
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Winning cards

In yesterday's Mizal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the ace of spades, seven of hearts, seven of diamonds, and ten of clubs.

ACRI asks police to rescind political restrictions

EVELYN GORDON

A NEW directive restricting political activity by policemen should be rescinded immediately because it "violates basic civil liberties," the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) said yesterday.

In May, the police issued a directive forbidding policemen to belong to a political party; attend a political rally; wear a civilian dress; put stickers on their house or any car they use, including cars belonging to their spouses; or attend a parlor meeting, even in a private house.

ACRI demanded the police rescind these orders, saying they violate policemen's freedom of expression and association. Furthermore, the police has no legal authority to impose such restrictions.

"It is obviously important that a policeman in uniform not be seen promoting the interests of a particular party, ACRI noted. However, a policeman is also a citizen, and there should not be any restrictions on what he does in his private life."

ACRI also noted that the new restrictions are much more severe than those imposed on other civil servants. The Civil Service Commission forbids political activity only by members of the four highest ranks of the civil service - and even these top ranks are allowed private political activity.

Police spokesman Adi Gonen responded that while the new restrictions are more severe than those imposed on other public bodies, the police consider it of paramount importance for the force to be above all political activity, and therefore, special restrictions are justified.

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